

# Review of: "SARS-CoV-2 exposure in wild white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*)"

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A very professionally written paper full of factual information. It clearly states they obtained blood samples pre- and post-pandemic and identified that 40% of white-tailed deer tested had in fact been exposed to SARS-CoV-2 using their testing methodologies. It is hard to argue that this is the result of false positives based on the fact that such a high percentage tested positive but also that all the samples collected pre-pandemic tested negative. The authors speculate on routes of infection in deer, all of which are possible. Perhaps some inclusion about transmissibility from deer to humans or the impact infection may have on the deer herd? This report has the possibility to be used to negatively impact a multi-billion-dollar hunting industry. While it may be too early to tell, but a statement on the potential impacts on hunting and subsequent consumption of infected deer meat may be warranted to quell fears. If that is unknown at this time, that information should be included as well. Hunting and spending time outdoors has increased dramatically during the pandemic and this reviewer thinks that it would be reasonable to address impacts of this research in text, even if only an additional line were added.