Fatalities resulting from a collision with a deer are an emerging trend within the last decade. During 2002–2012, 48 motorcyclists have been killed in a crash with a deer, nearly five times more than the 10 deaths between 1991–2001. 2013 is on pace to be the deadliest year with rider deer crashes.

Safety Tips:
Deer are unpredictable, it is important for riders to be alert and focused on riding. Also wear full protective gear, including a DOT-approved helmet.

When encountering an animal slow down and use both brakes to stop. If a larger animal, like a deer, jumps out in front of you, use emergency braking (applying both front and rear brakes) to stop as quickly as possible. If you are unable to stop in time and/or contact is imminent after maximum braking, and you have room in the lane, release the brakes and attempt to swerve slowly behind the animal.

Rider training is an affordable, potentially life-saving option. Training is important for beginning, as well as experienced riders, to sharpen skills and improve crash-avoidance techniques.

To receive more riding tips and training information go to motorcyclesafety.org