

# Nara finds way to stop deer eating plastic bags

## Vocabulary Match

- |                |               |              |                |               |
|----------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| to prevent •   | to gorge on • | to ingest •  | to designate • | majestic •    |
| • eat greedily | • elegant     | • to swallow | • to stop      | • set, assign |

## Article

Some residents in Nara Prefecture have developed a practical solution to prevent deer from injuring themselves by gorging on plastic waste found in Nara Park: shopping bags deer can eat.

Local companies are teaming up to create and promote a special, eco-friendly paper called “shika gami” (deer paper) that will not harm the deer, even if they ingest it.

The park’s deer are beloved by locals and are known internationally for their polite, graceful bows. The government has even designated them as a national natural treasure.

But the deer have been swallowing plastic bags and other garbage in the park, which has grown into a serious issue for the majestic creatures, leading to a number of deer deaths in recent years.

Cosmetics wholesaler Hidetoshi Matsukawa, 43, in Tawaramoto is behind the new, edible product. He described the deer as “an important resource” for the economy of Nara prefecture that must be preserved and treated with respect.

## Quiz

1. Why have residents in Nara developed shopping bags deer can eat?
2. What are Nara Park’s deer internationally known for?

## Conversation

- A: I remember when I went to Nara and a deer took a cracker from my hand. It was so cute!
- B: You mean a *shika senbei*? They’re made from wheat flour and rice bran.
- A: I actually tried one myself, but it was pretty tasteless. Maybe we can eat those new bags?
- B: Haha, I don’t know. They’re made from recycled milk cartons... hmm... you go first!

## Discussion

1. Have you ever been to Nara Park, or another place with wild animals? Did you feed them?
2. What are the pros and cons of edible bags? Would you take a bite if you were hungry?
3. How are people trying to reduce the use of plastic in your city? What more could be done?