

Deer Sterilization Working Group  
Cincinnati, Ohio

November 27, 2014

Committee members;

Thank you for contacting me about your proposed project involving surgical sterilization of white-tailed deer in Cincinnati, Ohio parks.

In way of background, I am a licensed veterinarian and a Diplomate of the American College of Zoological Medicine. I have been practicing zoo animal medicine for more than 25 years, previously at the St. Louis Zoo and currently as Vice President of Animal Health at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. Please note that the information offered here is from my personal experience and is not meant to represent Columbus Zoo.

I worked with White Buffalo Inc and Dr. DeNicola several years ago on a deer population management project in Town and Country, MO (St. Louis suburb). This project lasted 2 years and involved an extensive lethal cull (sharpshooting) as well as surgical sterilization of 130 does. Surgery was performed by me and Dr. Steve Timm, a veterinary surgeon from Wisconsin.

The White Buffalo crew is professional, efficient and conscientious. When providing lethal control they use utmost caution and sensitivity. For nonlethal control, they offer outstanding capture skills. In the St. Louis project, deer were located after dark by spotlighting, darted with a tranquilizer dart, tracked, retrieved and transported to our mobile surgery trailer for sterilization. Each doe was prepped, and surgically sterilized by removal of the ovaries. Animals were ear tagged for monitoring and 30 were radiocollared, then they were then released in the area where they were captured. Only a single animal died during this project (from capture stress, no evidence of surgical complications).

The surgical procedure, when done by experienced veterinarians, is a minimal risk. No evidence of postop infection or incision complications was noted. Depending on the capture rate and conditions, 2 surgeons can sterilize more than 10 individuals / night, so your population of 38 deer could be completed in a relatively short timeframe. While surgical sterilization of course offers permanent population control, immigration may bring new fertile females into the area and additional steps may be needed in the future.

Please feel free to contact me if I can offer additional information.

Randall E, Junge, DVM, DACZM  
[rejunge@hotmail.com](mailto:rejunge@hotmail.com)  
314 570 4552