

Another Successful Year for the Clifton Deer Program

With the winter field season behind us, we have good news to report:

- We spayed three new immigrant does this season, bringing our total number of deer treated since the program began to 102!
- The deer population in the study area (the ~1 sq. mi. bounded by I-75, Ludlow Ave, and Clifton Ave) has remained steady compared to last year and has declined 41% since the program began.
- Thanks to our local volunteers and the UCAN Nonprofit Pet Care Clinic, our annual operating costs remain low (\$6,000 to \$8,000) for the fifth year in a row.

Immigration of deer into the study area continues to be modest, and mortality among our aging herd remains surprisingly low (Doe #1, a/k/a Gloria, sterilized in 2015, continues to mug for our field cameras at the ripe old age of 16!, and more than 50% of our tagged deer are seniors at age 10+). If mortality remains low over the next few years and immigration increases, population levels could continue to plateau or even increase slightly in the short term. If immigration remains steady, and a significant percentage of our older deer reach the end of their natural lifespans, we could see a few years of rapid decline before the population levels off.

Whatever happens, we'll be watching, reporting to you, and treating any new immigrants to the herd until the population reaches an eco-sustainable level.

The Clifton Deer Program is grateful to our generous donors, enthusiastic volunteers, and the gracious neighbors who volunteer their yards for bait sites and who report deer sightings through the "Report Tagged Deer" portal at www.cliftondeer.org.