



Village of Cayuga Heights

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November 20, 2012

Joseph E. Therrien
Wildlife Biologist
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Special Licenses Unit
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-4752

Dear Mr. Therrien:

I am writing in regard to the Village of Cayuga Heights LCP #1708. We have received the modification to our LCP, dated 11/15/2012, authorizing the Village to capture and sterilize 145 WTD does.

The Village initially applied for the LCP as part of a two phase process. Phase 1, to be accomplished through the LCP, is the surgical sterilization of does. Phase 2 would involve the culling of deer using sharpshooters, as outlined in the Modified Consent Order issued by the DEC to the Village (DEC Case No R&-2006011-2).

As the Village worked through the steps to implement the program, the Village collected additional data, including property owners' permission for sterilization and/or culling operations on their property. At this time, the Village does not have adequate sites available for culling deer.

Because the Village is not currently be able to proceed with sharp-shooting and lethal deer removal, the Village would like to undertake a research program to assess the feasibility of using sterilization as a stand-alone deer population management tool for communities where culling is not an option. We therefore requested a modification of the Village's LCP to allow sterilization of up to 150 does. This modification will result in a high percentage of sterilized females, thus at a minimum slowing the herd growth, and will provide a sufficient tagged population to conduct an accurate assessment of herd size.

Specific research objectives for the deer fertility control study in the Village of Cayuga Heights include:

1. Determine fawning rates for female deer surgically sterilized with ovariectomies during early December.
2. A high proportion of tagged deer would enable estimation of deer population size in the Village using infrared-triggered camera surveys.
3. Having a high proportion of female deer tagged (90-95%) would allow estimation of immigration rates for new deer into the Village.

4. The Village could determine if sterilization alone can achieve a significant reduction in herd size for an open deer population.

Please note that the modified LCP still specifies in “Condition #9 – Authorized Procedure” that the sterilization is to be accomplished with tubal ligation surgeries. Based upon the findings of Cornell University’s Deer Management Program, and as discussed with Gordon Batchellor, we request authorization for the veterinarian to perform ovariectomies in addition to tubal ligation.

Village officials understand that using fertility control alone is a long-term effort, and deer sterilization alone may not achieve our management objectives for a reduced herd size. Based upon the results of our intensive sterilization program and the results of the subsequent population study the Village will assess how to move forward with future deer management efforts. The Board will assess the feasibility of lethal and non-lethal methods as new information or options become available.

The Village is currently negotiating contracts with White Buffalo, Inc. for the capture and sterilization of female deer, and with Cornell University for a population estimate. The Village currently plans to initiate these efforts December 1, 2012.

Please let me know if you have questions or need additional information.

With thanks,

Kate Supron, Mayor

Cc: Gordon Batchellor
Steve Joule