



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

January 12, 2016

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Keith McGill, Municipal Manager
Mt. Lebanon Municipal Building
710 Washington Road, Second Floor
Mt. Lebanon, PA 15228

Re: Response to Proposal – Deer Fertility Control Project

Dear Mr. McGill:

On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States (The HSUS), I would like to thank the Mt. Lebanon Board of Commissioners for working with us over the past few months to explore the possibility of partnering with our organization to conduct a deer fertility control study.

To that end, in November 2015, we had a productive meeting with representatives of the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) in Harrisburg who stated that the agency would give serious consideration to a deer fertility control research proposal and that their staff would be able to begin providing us with feedback on what would need to be included in such a proposal in mid-January 2016.

As a result of this meeting, The HSUS and The Dietrich W. Botstiber Foundation (DWBF) - an organization interested in providing financial support for deer sterilization research - have reviewed the deer surgical sterilization proposal submitted to Mt. Lebanon by Dr. DeNicola of White Buffalo, Inc. on October 29, 2015. DWBF is willing to provide substantial financial support, if the program meets their expectations. For this reason, The HSUS would strongly encourage Mt. Lebanon to submit the proposal to the PGC for additional feedback so that a final, revised draft can be prepared and submitted to the PGC for consideration and approval as soon as possible.

As stated in previous correspondence regarding this issue, any final proposed budget should include cost-saving measures and contributions to the project by all parties involved. For instance, The HSUS is willing to contribute two staff biologists to work on the proposed project to reduce costs associated with the “wildlife biologists” line item – a savings of approximately \$51,000. Since another significant line item in the proposed budget is lodging: would Mt. Lebanon be willing to contribute to the project by providing lodging for project staff? This would amount to a savings of approximately \$22,000.

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Finally, as stated previously, The HSUS is interested in partnering with a community that shares our vision with respect to wildlife conflict transformation and interests in conducting a deer fertility control study that will produce robust scientific data. For these reasons and those stated in previous correspondence regarding this issue, financial support for the proposed project would be contingent upon Mt. Lebanon's willingness to suspend and postpone any community-sanctioned and supported lethal deer management operations until the study project has been completed. Specifically, that would mean suspending the current archery program and postponing the proposed sharpshooting program.

Again, The HSUS and its funding partner, DWBF, would welcome the opportunity to work with Mt. Lebanon on a deer fertility control study. Such a project would be the first of its kind in Pennsylvania, and if successful, would serve as a model for other communities to replicate in the future.

I can be reached by telephone at 301-258-3147, or email sboyles@humanesociety.org if you have questions about this assessment or require additional information. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephanie L. Boyles Griffin'.

Stephanie L. Boyles Griffin, Senior Director
Innovative Wildlife Management & Services
The Humane Society of the United States

cc: Commissioner Kelly Fraasch
Commissioner Steve McLean
Commissioner John Bendel

Commissioner Steve Silverman
Commissioner David Brumfield