

## Alison Foulis - City Clerk

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**From:** Mary Neilan - City Manager  
**Sent:** Monday, June 06, 2016 8:07 AM  
**To:** Alison Foulis - City Clerk  
**Subject:** FW: Animal Welfare Institute supports surgical sterilization of deer

Please forward to council and include in agenda packet.

Mary Neilan, City Manager  
City of Belvedere  
450 San Rafael Ave.  
Belvedere, CA 94920  
(415) 435-3838  
(415) 435-8906 (direct)

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**From:** Wyman Harris  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 05, 2016 10:32 PM  
**To:** Mary Neilan - City Manager  
**Cc:** John Owen; Frank Green; Marshall Turner; George Gness; Carolyn Hansen  
**Subject:** Animal Welfare Institute supports surgical sterilization of deer

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## Second Phase of Five-Year "Deer Spay Project" Kicks Off in Fairf

Monday, January 26, 2015

## Second Phase of Five-Year "Deer Spay Project" Kicks Off in Fairfax City

Monday, January 26, 2015

*Virginia's First Deer Sterilization Project, Supported by AWI, Moves Ahead*

Washington, DC—Humane Deer Management

(<http://www.humandedeermanagement.org/>), an

organization established by Northern Virginia citizens dedicated to non-lethal control of the region's deer population, launched the second

phase of its "Deer Spay Project" today in Fairfax City, Virginia. A five-year surgical sterilization project aimed at reducing deer populations and improving human-deer interactions, the effort is designed to provide the city with a permanent and effective alternative to lethal management.



"Deer management is a significant issue across the country. While lethal management can result in short-term reductions in population, multiple scientific studies have demonstrated that it does not bring long-term stability," said Cathy Liss, president of the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI), which contributed financial support and will provide staff volunteers for the second phase of the project. "We are proud to support this research initiative as a humane, non-lethal, and cost-conscious way for communities like Fairfax City to keep deer populations in check."

In this week-long second phase, directed by wildlife biologist Anthony J. DeNicola, doe will be safely and humanely darted with a remote injection tranquilizer, and transferred to a mobile surgical unit where their ovaries are removed by specially trained veterinarians. The **Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries**

(<http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/>) has previously granted approval for the use of corn at bait stations and spotlighting throughout the city, which is expected to increase the number

of captured deer.

“The city has been seeking to explore a creative, non-lethal method for managing the growing deer population in our area,” said City of Fairfax Mayor R. Scott Silverthorne, who endorsed the project in December 2013 and has been working with the city's Police Department to assist with the project. “The results of the project will be invaluable in our assessment and help us determine how we can curtail populations without resorting to inhumane methods.”

In phase one, which also took one week and was completed in February 2014, 18 does—an estimated 48 percent of the City's female deer population—were darted and surgically sterilized. There were no deaths or injuries associated with the capture or surgery, and a long-term pain killer and long-acting antibiotic were given prior to release. Ear tags and radio-tracking collars were also placed on the deer for future tracking.

The project aims to sterilize most of the does in the area by the end of next year. Afterwards, project managers will focus on any new does that migrate into the city. Project researchers hope to demonstrate that the reduction in births, along with the average 10 to 15 percent mortality rate projected among deer in suburbia, will result in a smaller, more sustainable herd over time.

To learn more about AWI's support of the Deer Spay Project and stance on deer sterilization projects, visit <http://awionline.org/deer-spay> (<https://awionline.org/deer-spay>) .

###

#### **Media Contact:**

Amey Owen, [amey@awionline.org](mailto:amey@awionline.org) (<mailto:amey@awionline.org>) , AWI, (202) 446-2128

#### **About the Animal Welfare Institute**

The Animal Welfare Institute (AWI) is a non-profit charitable organization founded in 1951 and dedicated to reducing animal suffering caused by people. AWI engages policymakers, scientists, industry, and the public to achieve better treatment of animals everywhere—in the laboratory, on the farm, in commerce, at home, and in the wild. For more information on AWI, visit [www.awionline.org](http://www.awionline.org) (<http://www.awionline.org>) .

#### **About Humane Deer Management**

Humane Deer Management is a group of individuals in Northern Virginia who have been active in deer management issues with the local government and private groups for several years. Comprised of veterinarians, a wildlife biologist, veterinary technicians, and local volunteers, the group pioneered the Deer Spay Program in Fairfax City, VA, in 2014. For more information, visit <http://www.humandedeermanagement.org/> (<http://www.humandedeermanagement.org/>) .

RECEIVED

JUN 06 2016

City of Belvedere

145 Bayview Avenue  
Belvedere

June 4th 2016

Belvedere City Council

Deer Population

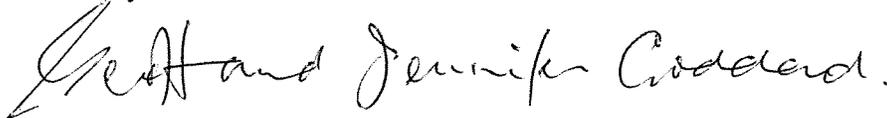
In response to the debate regarding deer population not everyone has a lot that is conducive to fencing. Ours would look extremely unattractive because of size and high visibility. The deer now eat all the ivy that acts as retaining walls all over the Island and we are left with erosion and unsightly roots. They jump on our flat roofs and damage the irrigation and landscaping but the biggest problem is that there is excrement all over our brick steps and path out to the end of our lot that has to be cleaned away. This is not similar to owning a small family pet.

When we moved here 39 years ago we would occasionally see one or two a couple of times a year - now they roam in bands of six.

Our beautiful Island has been destroyed because of ugly, unsightly streets that used to have beautiful, lush, green banks but now create erosion onto the roads where mosquitos breed in the mud due to water collecting in it from irrigation.

On a recent coach tour of Angel Island we were informed by the guide that there are some deer on the island but the herd is culled to keep the population under control. Mountain lions are now spotted in Novato and Tennessee Valley. Either Mother Nature will find a way of culling the herd or we can do it ourselves.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Geoff and Jennifer Coddard". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

RECEIVED

JUN 06 2016

City of Belvedere

*Nancy Barbour*

81 Acacia Avenue Belvedere, CA 94920

June 4, 2016

To the members of the Belvedere City Council,

I live at 81 Acacia Avenue and have been a home owner in Belvedere for 15 years.

Recently I learned of a group calling itself the "2016 Deer Committee" and their proposal to sterilize the female deer in Belvedere. In reading their proposal, I was shocked by their justifications for recommending such drastic measures. The proposal is so full of assumptions and misinformation that I do not know how the council can honestly consider its merit.

In their opening paragraphs, the committee states that "since 2009 the deer population has greatly increased." This has not been my experience. Although I often saw deer in my neighborhood in the past, I don't see them as much now. There has never been a count of the deer in Belvedere. How can a hand full of people claim the population has "greatly increased" then use this assumption to justify sterilization?

We do not live in a closed environment, contrary to the committee's statement otherwise. There is a wide, 2-lane, lightly traveled, road that leads directly from Belvedere into the hills of Tiburon. Reducing the deer population in Belvedere simply opens up more room for more deer to move in from Tiburon.

Again, contrary to the committee's statement, "We have no predators here," a buck on Acacia was killed by coyotes in December of 2013.

White Buffalo, the "credible vendor" the group is attempting to hire, is a VERY controversial East Coast organization that makes its living culling deer herds. They are now experimenting with sterilization. The 2016 Deer Committee is proposing that the city hire this group to sterilize our deer in order to reduce the population. Does the council understand that this is a THREE - FIVE year project? Does the council understand what White Buffalo is proposing for year 2? Year 3? And beyond?

Finally, the committee claims that the city could someday face legal action if it does not take the steps now to control the deer population to prevent future "health and safety risks and the reduction of property values." It is hard to read this last sentence and keep a straight face.

If the city is really afraid of legal action, consider this. White Buffalo is a magnet for animal rights groups. And lawsuits. In November of 2015, a city in the Hamptons was sued in order to stop White Buffalo from continuing to sterilize their community herd - the same experiment the city of Belvedere is considering now.

Why would the city council bring this kind of disruption into our quiet community? Inviting White Buffalo into our city to sterilize deer will not solve problems, it will create them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Barbour". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Nancy Barbour

1 Attachment



## Wildlife Advocates Sue East Hampton Village Over Deer Sterilization Effort

**UPDATED** Nov 10, 2015 3:03 PM

By [Michael Wright](#)

An East Hampton animal rights group has filed a lawsuit against East Hampton Village over its continuance of a sterilization program that critics have said led to the deaths of several deer last spring.

The East Hampton Group for Wildlife and four of its members are plaintiffs in the lawsuit, which was filed in state Supreme Court on Friday and calls for an injunction against the village from continuing the deer sterilization effort.

The village began the sterilizations last winter, using veterinarians to surgically remove the ovaries of tranquilized deer. Over three weeks, 114 female deer were tranquilized and had the surgical sterilizations. The tranquilizing and surgeries were conducted by a deer management company called White Buffalo Inc., which has also performed deer culls in North Haven Village. The company was paid about \$140,000 by the village, \$30,000 of which was raised by the East Hampton Village Preservation Society.

"In January they sterilized does in unsanitary conditions," said Bill Crain, vice-president of the East Hampton Group for Wildlife and one of the plaintiffs named individually in the lawsuit. "[The veterinarians] were in street clothes when they performed the surgery. They did it in the [East Hampton Village] Department of Public Works maintenance shed. They were negligent in the surgery and the village, knowing this, should have stopped the project."

In the spring, at least a half-dozen female deer were found dead in the village, apparently suffering from infections and bleeding after giving birth to still-born offspring. Members of the East Hampton Group for Wildlife documented some of the deaths and the group's president, Dell Cullum, has said that as many as 19 of the deer, identified by white tags placed on their ears, may have died.

Last week the village confirmed that White Buffalo had returned to East Hampton and resumed the sterilization effort. White Buffalo had said last year that after the second phase of the project they hoped to have sterilized as much as 90 percent of the female deer living in the village and that residents would hopefully see a reduction in deer numbers in the ensuing years.

The company was expected to be done with its efforts by this week, according to village officials, based on a recommendation by the state Department of Environmental Conservation following the deaths last spring that the sterilizations be done prior to the deer's fall mating season.

Mr. Crain said that the village has violated laws to conceal the timing and process of the sterilization program from his group.

"We FOILED for information regarding White Buffalo and the village never responded," Mr. Crain said, referring to the common abbreviation for requesting public information under the state Freedom of Information Law. "You could say the village outsmarted us by being secretive. But what are the ethics of doing something secretly in a democracy where the public has the right to know what's going on."

Village officials refused to comment on the lawsuit. Village business administrator Rebecca Molinaro said that the group's FOIL request had been acknowledged and is being met with the requested information. She said a final response would be delivered within the legally required time frame.

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From: **Peter Ganz** Peter.Ganz@ucsf.edu  
Subject: **Deer sterilization**  
Date: June 2, 2016 at 7:04 AM  
To: afoulis@cityofbelvedere.org  
Cc: **Peter Ganz** Peter.Ganz@ucsf.edu

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JUN 06 2016

City of Belvedere

June 2, 2016

City Council  
Belvedere, CA

Dear Members of the City Council,

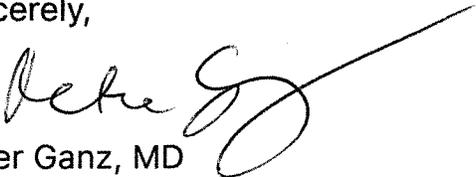
I strenuously object to the proposal to sterilize the female deer in the City of Belvedere, for the following reasons:

1) I view the capture and surgical sterilization of female deer as **highly unethical**. We have deer that reside on our property that have become trusting and timid. For someone to force them to undergo a surgical procedure under substandard operating conditions with a chance of complications (including infection, hemorrhage or death) would never be approved by any animal research ethics committee at medical schools that I have been associated with (Harvard and UCSF). **Ethics are not for negotiations**. If even one person in our City thinks that this proposal is unethical, we should not do it and I am one such person (among many that I am aware of).

2) If implemented, this proposal will subject the City of Belvedere to **ridicule**. I can foresee the headlines of "wealthy, white elite of Belvedere mutilating deer for the sake of flowers".

3) The proposal is highly **divisive** and will undoubtedly lead to confrontations. It is the last thing this city needs.

Sincerely,



Peter Ganz, MD

Chief, Division of Cardiology

Director, Center of Excellence in Vascular Research

Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital

Maurice Eliaser Distinguished Professor of Medicine

University of California, San Francisco

June 4, 2016

Belvedere City council  
City of Belvedere  
450 San Rafael Avenue  
Belvedere Ca 94920

TO: Mayor McAulife and members of the City Council:

This is in regard to the proposal to sterilize all female deer in Belvedere....refer to the ARK article May 18, 2016.

I am in total opposition to this proposal. It is inhumane, ghastly, stupid, and crazy. In all intelligence, abandon it.

Please work toward finding a sensible humane way to solve the deer problem.



Golda Boeck  
71 West Shore Road  
Belvedere CA 94920  
415-435-3666

## Alison Foulis - City Clerk

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**From:** Mary Neilan - City Manager  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 09, 2016 11:32 AM  
**To:** Alison Foulis - City Clerk  
**Subject:** FW: Lyme Disease

**From:** Melissa Prentis  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 5, 2016 3:19 PM  
**Subject:** Lyme Disease

Dear Belvedere City Council,

I wanted to offer some information pertaining to the proposal to curb the deer population.

We lived in Belvedere for 11 years and recently moved to Tiburon. My daughter and I were diagnosed with **Lyme Disease** after tick bites in Marin county from 12 years ago. Lyme disease is an infection caused by several strains of the bacteria *Borrelia burgdorferi* (*Bb*). The bacteria is transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected tick. These ticks can also transmit other diseases and infect pets and livestock. Deer are hosts that provide the ticks with a bountiful supply of food (i.e., blood meals), enabling the ticks to live, reproduce, and/or infect a human. High risk areas to contract Lyme Disease include those areas that have a large deer population.

Lyme disease is a truly awful chronic illness if it is not diagnosed immediately which, unfortunately, is generally the case due to poor diagnostic testing and a lack of awareness from GP's. It can affect any organ and tends to have many neurological consequences. We have been under treatment for 3 years and are still symptomatic.

Here are some facts about Lyme Disease:

- **Untreated, Lyme disease can become a severely debilitating disease** affecting joints, the heart, the brain, and/or the central nervous system. There are half a million Americans struggling with late-stage Lyme disease.
- **Late-stage and post-treatment Lyme disease (PTLD) cause immense suffering and severe health issues** for thousands of patients with little remedy. Controversy over prolonged antibiotic use, highly variable disease progression and genetic conditions, and masquerading symptoms often impede treatment.
- **Prevention is key, yet few are aware of the risks or how to take precautions.**

Reduced **deer populations** can lead to a reduction in **Lyme disease** cases, researchers in Connecticut have found that after a 13-year study was conducted. White-tailed **deer** serve as the primary host for the adult blacklegged tick (*Ixodes scapularis*) -- the vector for **Lyme disease**. <http://www.entsoc.org/press-releases/fewer-deer-may-mean-less-lyme-disease>

For the 11 years that we lived in Belvedere, we noticed a definitive increase in the number of deer in addition to a number of friends and neighbors who had aggressive deer interactions. The deer enter our yards and live within our properties. Furthermore, Lyme disease is on the rise in Marin County over the last decade with more and more people being diagnosed (according to the doctors trained to treat Lyme in the Bay Area e.g. Stricker, Green, Leone, McDougall, Patel, etc). If we have the opportunity to reduce the incidence of Lyme Disease by reducing the significant increase in the deer population, we would be wise to seize on that opportunity for the benefit of everyone in the community.

All the best,

Melissa Prentis