

Alison Foulis - City Clerk

From: Clara Love <claralove@me.com>
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2016 11:31 AM
To: Alison Foulis - City Clerk
Subject: Deer Project Opposition

Hi Alison,

I wanted to share with you my concerns for the proposed sterilization or contraception project of the deer here in Belvedere. I find this method of deer control unethical and inhumane given the current population. I am concerned that the size of the herd is being overestimated without a scientific assessment of the population. If the population were indeed out of control and the deer were suffering, it would make sense to look at last resort methods, but this has not been established.

In my personal experience, last spring we had a doe and her 2 fawns living in the backyard for 3 months. My family was touched to watch this mother nursing her babies and finding refuge in the garden. After living in a large city in Asia for over a decade, we were in awe to see this natural wildlife right here in our backyard. It's something that makes living outside the city unique. The doe never once showed any aggressive behavior towards us. If we live in mutual respect with wildlife, we can coexist.

The only damage to this property in the 18 months we have rented here was a patch of ivy under a tree in the backyard. It seems with inexpensive netting to cover ivy and the plants deer like or installing a motion sprinkler as suggested by Wildcare at the city council meeting, residents could still enjoy their gardens and feel safe when being outside on their property.

I find it highly concerning that aggressive forms of wildlife management are being considered for this beautiful place where the deer population has not yet been scientifically proven to be out of control. It seems the real problem for this herd may in fact have been the drought and lack of food.

Warm wishes, Clara

Clara Love
11 Laurel Ave

Alison Foulis - City Clerk

From: Wyman C. Harris [mailto:boater54@aol.com]

Sent: Tuesday, November 29, 2016 8:20 PM

To: Mary Neilan - City Manager

Cc: Claire McAuliffe; Marty Winter; James Campbell; Bob McCaskill - Councilmember; Nancy Kemnitzer - Councilmember

Subject: TNC Letter of Support 28 Nov 2016 Morrison.pdf

Dear Mary,

I recently had the good fortune to spend a week at Palmyra Atoll, a tiny island one thousand miles south of Hawaii, owned by The Nature Conservancy*.

While there I had the opportunity to discuss a number projects with TNC scientists including control or eradication of non-native species that were causing ecological damage, e.g. rats at Palmyra Atoll, Argentine ants at Johnson Island, feral pigs and wild turkeys at Santa Cruz Island, non-native deer at Point Reyes National Seashore, feral horses at Assateague National Seashore, bison at Catalina Island, and others.

At some point when I asked Scott Morrison (Director of Science Programs) if he happened to know about White Buffalo he ran out of superlatives in praising Tony DeNicola and his methods. He said that Tony is “one-of-a-kind,” the “best in the world,” professional, skilled, disciplined, with great respect and care for animals. When I mentioned that we hoped to work with Dr. DeNicola to help manage the deer population in Belvedere he said that we could not choose a better partner.

Please see the attached letter of recommendation from The Nature Conservancy regarding White Buffalo, Inc. and Dr. Anthony DeNicola.

I know that you are working to put together a schedule for his visit. I hope that his visit will not be at a time when we are away February 24 to March 16 as I would love to meet him.

Respectfully,

Wyman Harris

*The Nature Conservancy with over one million members is the leading conservation organization working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. They are extraordinarily effective because everything they do is rooted in good science--aided by hundreds of staff scientists. They pursue non-confrontational, pragmatic solutions to conservation challenges.

November 26, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

Over the past decade, The Nature Conservancy has partnered with White Buffalo, Inc. on multiple conservation projects in California. Through that work, I have had the privilege to work closely with its founder and president, Dr. Anthony DeNicola. Tony was a key member of the team that removed a highly destructive population of feral pigs from Santa Cruz Island, CA., a joint project of the Conservancy and the National Park Service that was integral to the recovery of the Santa Cruz Island Fox and its recent removal from the US Endangered Species List. Tony's role in the project was multifaceted, and included leveraging the effort to advance a study for the State of California regarding the performance of non-lead ballistics in field conditions. Use of non-lead ammunition was a critical requirement of our program so as not to harm eagles and other scavenging species on the island. Through the pig program I developed a tremendous confidence in Tony's expertise, and so did not hesitate to partner with him to plan and oversee an eradication of wild turkeys from the island, which also posed a variety of risks to native plants and animals. Incidentally, Tony and I published the methods of that project in the peer-reviewed scientific journal *Oryx* in 2016; that paper includes a concise synopsis of the strategic principles and unique discipline required for effective management of problematic large vertebrate populations. Following that project, White Buffalo was brought in to lead the eradication of exotic deer that were degrading habitat for native species at Point Reyes National Seashore; based on a trust in Tony earned through experience, the Conservancy again partnered with him to advance a study into the efficacy of contraceptive technologies as a non-lethal means of achieving population management objectives.

In all of my work with Tony over the years, what stands apart is his utmost professionalism, discretion, and dedication to the work. He is truly unique in the field. Tony well understands – and has deep professional relationships with – the diversity of interests often engaged in wildlife population management challenges: wildlife managers, animal welfare interests, wildlife veterinarians, conservation interests, hunting advocates, wildlife biologists, and community groups. Especially because The Nature Conservancy is a science-based and non-confrontational organization, it was essential to have a partner we could trust to be disciplined in all the dimensions of the work – including being able to be dialogue constructively across all these interests, to hold paramount public safety, and to advance humane practices in all field operations.

One aspect of Tony's personality and ethic that some may not assume or appreciate is his deep respect for the animals he works with. And what is important to understand is that the same skill and discipline necessary to achieve eradication of a large vertebrate population is the same capability and precision that greatly diminishes the risk of wounding and escape of animals, and so their risk of stress and suffering. This was critically important for The Nature Conservancy – as it clearly was for Tony himself: his attention to meet the American Veterinary Medical Association's euthanasia standards for wildlife. I fully recognize how unfortunate it is that in our very human-modified world some animal populations need to be managed using lethal means. What I am so grateful for is that there are experts like Tony that undertake that work with such seriousness and sensitivity.

I thank White Buffalo Inc. for providing such a responsible and respected service in conservation. Please don't hesitate to reach out if I can provide any additional information.

Most sincerely,



Scott A. Morrison, Ph.D.
The Victor E. Shelford Director of Conservation Science