

City of Ann Arbor DEER STERILIZATION PROGRAM Wards 1 and 2 - Nov. 28-30, 2018



Surgical sterilization of deer will again take place per a special research permit in two areas in Wards 1 and 2, Nov. 28-30, 2018.

Residents' daily routines do not need to change. There will be no closures of parks during the nonlethal sterilization program.

What to expect

White Buffalo Inc., wildlife professionals, will locate female deer and dart them with tranquilizer darts equipped with tracking devices. This will be done from marked, stationary vehicles on public roadways and at bait stations at designated sites within or near your neighborhood between 3 p.m. and 5 a.m. **Safety is the top priority.** Deer will be darted by highly experienced personnel who are specially trained to dart deer in an urban setting with precision and accuracy. Unlike firearms, pneumatic darting guns have a very limited range (30-40 feet).

It is unlikely that you will notice the actual darting activities because, while some darting will occur at designated bait stations in the late afternoon, most work will be done during nighttime hours, when deer are most active (and people are not).

Once darted, the deer will be tracked until they are unconscious (typically just a few minutes), and then transported to a temporary surgical site where a veterinarian will perform ovariectomies and administer long-acting antibiotics and pain relievers. The entire process, from initial darting to release, takes approximately one hour per deer.

What happens to the sterilized deer?

All sterilized deer will be fitted with numbered ear tags, and one mature doe in each group will be radio-collared to facilitate future program efforts, track migration rates and patterns and assess survival rates. Data regarding size, age and condition will be collected. Treated deer will then be returned to a safe location close to the area where they were found and monitored until they have recovered from anesthesia.

Please note: Once darted, a deer may run up to 100 yards before succumbing to the tranquilizer. It is unlikely that a tranquilized deer will choose your yard in which to fall asleep, but if it does, the recovery team, assisted by the Ann Arbor Police Department, will carefully remove the sedated deer from your property and transport it to the surgical site. During this process, you may see vehicles marked White Buffalo Inc., AAPD or City of Ann Arbor.

The Deer Sterilization Program will:

- Be conducted by veterinarians and wildlife professionals led by a wildlife biologist from White Buffalo Inc., a non-profit conservation group, with whom the City of Ann Arbor has contracted.
- Use a sterilization method known as a “rapid ovariectomy,” which is similar to, but less invasive than, spaying a dog or cat.
- Be coordinated by City of Ann Arbor staff, as directed by City Council and operate under a special research permit from the state.

Visit the Deer Management website for more information:

- View a map of the nonlethal sterilization areas.
- Read answers to frequently asked questions.
- Sign up for deer management email notifications & more.

Report a Problem

Please contact city staff directly via email at deermanagement@a2gov.org or via the deer management hotline at 734.794.6295.

AAPD and White Buffalo Inc. personnel will work together closely throughout the nonlethal sterilization activities. In the event you have urgent safety concerns, please call 9-1-1.



Website: www.a2gov.org/deermanagement
Email: deermanagement@a2gov.org
Deer Hotline: 734.794.6295