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**Sent:** Saturday, January 08, 2011 4:26 PM  
**Subject:** conversation with Tony DeNicola, White Buffalo

Dear Kate,  
cc: All

Prior to our conference call with Tim Miller/Fred Wells and Randy Monday, herewith are notes from a phone **conversation with Tony DeNicola** on December 9th; my purpose was an update on White Buffalo recommendations regarding **sterilization and culling**, whether by sharpshooting or by baiting, netting and bolting:

#### **Culling:**

**sharpshooting: the most humane method -- instantaneous death and no stress to the animal;** avoids hitting tagged deer that have been sterilized

cannot be the sole method used unless there are sufficient locations meeting distance restrictions, meaning, in our case, the law requiring permission of all persons living within a 500' radius)

#### **Netting and bolting:**

method of choice in restricted areas where sharpshooting is limited

best way to secure the deer is to use "drop nets"

duration of stress for an animal is less than may be imagined, e.g. less than when chemical sedation is used prior to sterilization or immunization

**less than one minute is needed to euthanize eight animals under a net -- from the time of deployment to the last euthanization**

(chemical sedation requires at least four minutes using skilled personnel prior to immunization; **in DeNicola's experience it is more humane to kill an animal**)

**captive bolting is extremely effective; it is easy to hold and restrain an animal, place the bolt and kill; WB has culled several hundred deer in this way**

netting and bolting is twice as expensive as sharpshooting; man hours per animal are roughly twice as much

we won't likely be able to capture more than sixty deer with netting

#### **Sterilization**

**sterilization needs to be done by darting the animal first from a vehicle** -- a moving platform, rather than netting; the animal is taken to a trailer for the sterilization procedure

this is a **sequencing issue**: you won't be able to net any deer more than once, meaning any deer caught in a net and released because it is not being sterilized won't be captured again. Conversely, capturing deer for sterilization by dartguns would mean all deer netted could be culled.

(DeNicola mentioned that any doe caught in a net and sterilized on site is subjected to a more primitive procedure than does anesthetized by a dartgun and taken to a trailer; I failed to ask why a netted deer couldn't be taken to a trailer; maybe it's a question of distance.)

**N.B.** Tom Boyce has confirmed that dartguns used to capture does are over 17 mm. caliber making them firearms in NYS. Since it is illegal to shoot firearms from a vehicle in NYS, **we would need a legal exemption** to use dartguns for sterilization. This means that the 500' rule would likely also apply to dartguns. Should we request of Gordon Batcheller/DEC some kind of exemption for both the use and the restricted area of dartgun use? Kate has noted to me that dartguns were used by Cornell/Paul Curtis in the initial Village sterilization program. Paul Curtis has indicated in correspondence with Tom that he has two dartguns, presumably being

used now at Cornell.

The **optimal scenario** would be sterilization using dartguns combined with with culling by sharpshooting and by baiting, netting and bolting.

If we can't shoot darts from vehicles, we'll have difficulty killing all the deer.

Any method will, of course, be graphic and traumatic.

The cost of sterilization with darting is between \$800 and \$1,000 per doe; sharpshooting is between \$200 and \$300 per deer.

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