

LETTERS

Better plan needed for deer

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I read the article in The Ithaca Journal about the shoot-and-kill program that is being proposed in Cayuga Heights, and as a resident of Cayuga Heights, I am very upset.

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Although some of our garden has suffered at the mouths of the many deer who co-habitate our land, I consider it an honor to share our land with them — one small way we can connect with the fast-disappearing natural world.

I choose simply to make adjustments in what and where I plant, and focus on what the deer contribute. The deer are indigenous to this land, and they are part of our community.

In an ever-increasingly violent world, we are trying to raise our young children to respect all living beings, and to reject killing as a means of solving problems. A systematic slaughter of deer in our backyard will undermine the values we hold dear, as do so many other Ithaca residents, I believe.

There are practical, proven, non-violent ways to address each of the issues raised by the people who are experiencing conflict with the deer — ways that don't ask anyone to go out and methodically take life after innocent life.

Having grown up in Ithaca, I know that this community is capable of great things. Let's work together to find a better, more peaceful approach.

Katie Stein
Ithaca