Herd Reduction Option: Capture and Euthanasia

Process:

Deer are captured and euthanized with either a penetrating captive bolt or with drugs. The captive-bolt technique provides for instantaneous death of the restrained deer and allows for human consumption of the meat.

Anticipated Result:

- An immediate reduction of the general population of deer within the Town limits.
- Euthanized deer would be humanely killed and safely removed.

PROS

- This technique can be used in areas where there is a concern about the discharge of firearms or in areas with very high deer densities.
- Physical restraint and euthanasia of deer in traps sometimes preferred over chemical means since it allows for the consumption of meat from the deer.
- If drugs are not used to capture or kill the deer, there is an opportunity to donate the harvested venison meat to local charities or Food Banks.

CONS

- Requires trained personnel to euthanize captured deer.
- Deer are greatly stressed during the restraint phase of the capturing process.
- The use of drugs to capture or kill the deer would preclude using the venison for human consumption.
- This Option would require safe handling and disposal of animal carcasses.
- If drugs are used to capture or kill the deer and the meat is not to be consumed, disposal of the carcasses could pose an issue: carcasses would require deep burial or incineration.
- If deer population surrounding the Town is dense, over time deer will migrate into Town to fill the void.
- Town of Truro estimated costs exceeding $400 per deer captured.
(Costs involve the capture, restraints, traps, drugs, transport of dead animal, disposal, labour of trained personnel)

