Herd Reduction Option: Fertility Control

Process:

This Option involves the capture, vaccination and a permanent form of marking for identification. Vaccines can be delivered with darts using a marker dye, however, this marking is temporary until the dye wears off. Permanent marking methods involve ear tags and a collar and allow treated deer to be easily recognized and to avoid accidental recaptures of previously vaccinated animals.

Anticipated Result:

- A slow reduction of the general population of deer within the Town limits.

PROS

- No deer are killed or euthanized. Nonlethal management techniques are generally accepted by the public.
- Vaccine uses dart injection and does not require handling or capture of deer, little stress on animals.
- No booster vaccine required. Would vaccine be repeated every 7 years? How often?
- Extremely high % of the females in a deer population become unproductive for +7 years.
- Vaccinated deer that may later be hunted can be safely consumed. Vaccine is not passed through the food chain to other animals or humans and does not contain hormones.

CONS

- No registered vaccines commercially available for controlling fertility of white-tailed deer.
- There would be no immediate reduction is deer populations as this method would rely on natural aging of the population without the yearly reproductive cycle (new fawns being born)
- Approach that requires years to reduce deer numbers, more effective if combined with another approach that removes adult deer.
- Deer from outside the town would still enter the town resulting in possible no net reduction in the herd.
- Costly option

