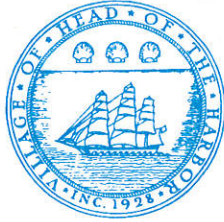


# Village of Head-of-the-Harbor



DOUGLAS A. DAHLGARD  
*Mayor*

TRUSTEES

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*(Deputy Mayor)*

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*Village Attorney*

MARGARET O'KEEFE  
*Village Administrator/Clerk*

PATRICIA A. MULDERIG  
*Village Treasurer*

CHARLES M. LOHMANN  
*Police Chief*

Dear Friends,

Season two of the deer immunocontraception will commence late February with full teams working March 1<sup>st</sup> through March 7<sup>th</sup>. Your cooperation is important to the success of this program in our Village, I ask that you read this letter carefully.

Field operations will be conducted, in accordance with a DEC permit, by trained personnel from HSUS, Tufts, and Avalon Park and Preserve. Female deer will be darted with an anesthetic. Once the deer is sedated, the field team will examine, weigh and measure the animal, collect blood for baseline pregnancy testing, inject the immunocontraceptive PZP-22 and a PIT tag (a microchip much like the ones used to identify dogs and cats), and place colored tags on the ears with identification numbers. The deer's vital signs will be closely monitored, and when the work-up is complete, the deer will receive a sedation-reversal agent and be released. This process takes approximately 30 minutes.

**Bait Stations:**

Deer feeders will be erected in early February prior to active darting efforts. These stations automatically dispense small amounts of corn at pre-programmed intervals to help bring deer into areas where it is safe to dart. The feeders will be placed on the properties of village residents who have agreed to participate in the study. If you happen to come across a feeder please do not disturb the device, as proper operation of feeders is essential to the success of the project. In addition, the release of corn can be hazardous at eye level.

**Darting:**

Safety (for people and animals) is the top priority when darting deer. A CO2 cartridge, much like a paintball gun, powers the equipment used to deliver the dart with shots taken at a distance of less than 25 yards. Upon impact, the dart will deliver a dose of anesthetic into the deer, with sedation occurring within 10-15 minutes. The dart is equipped with barbs that hold it in place and a radio transmitter. Most deer will flee after impact and may run some distance from the site of darting. If the deer is out of sight the field team will use radio telemetry equipment to locate the animal. Deer, while sedated, are not predictable. PLEASE DO NOT APPROACH THE ANIMAL. If no field staff are within sight, please call 911 and ask for Head of the Harbor police and report what you have found. In most cases the field team will be there within minutes to handle the deer. After the animal has been administered the reversal agent, field team

members will remain on site until the deer is conscious and moving around. Please do not approach the team while it is working with a deer. Any disturbance can cause the deer to regain consciousness suddenly and create a dangerous situation.

All field team members will be wearing bright colored reflective vests with "Deer Project" in bold, and travel in and work from similarly marked vehicles. The team will retrieve the dart once the animal is located. On very rare occasions the team may not be able to relocate a dart. Although there is no chance that the dart will discharge spontaneously, on the off chance you encounter a stray dart, PLEASE DO NOT TOUCH IT. Call the Head of the Harbor police department utilizing the 911 system and someone will be dispatched to retrieve it.

**Property access:**

No member of the field team will knowingly enter a property without prior consent from the property owner. We have determined several high priority areas in the village where large concentrations of deer have been observed. We will be making contact with residents in these areas in the next few weeks to discuss the project further and determine interest in participating in the project by allowing access to property.

Four ways you can participate as a village resident and land owner:

1. Allow the research team to bait, dart and work up the deer on your property.
2. Allow the research team to dart and work up the deer on your property.
3. Allow the research team to work up a deer on your property should it enter your property after sedation.
4. Allow the research team to place trail cameras on your property to assist in population estimations

Darting activities will be carried out at both daytime and nighttime hours during times when deer activity is highest. These timeframes may fluctuate with deer behavior and movement patterns.

Enclosed is a separate participation form that you may fill out and **mail to Avalon Park, 200 Harbor Rd., Stony Brook NY 11790 or scan and email to [deer@avalonparkandpreserve.org](mailto:deer@avalonparkandpreserve.org).**

Placing a green flag (which Avalon will provide) in the ground next to your mailbox will signal to the field team that you have permitted them to access your property as needed for the above activities.

We will also make note of any property owners who do not want to participate at all.

Placing a red flag at your mailbox (which Avalon will provide) will signal to the field team that you do not wish to permit any of the aforementioned activities to take place on your property.

**Ways you can help the project:**

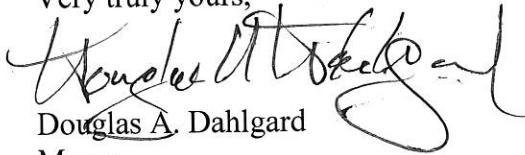
Many residents have inquired about how they might help with the study. First and foremost you are the best source of information about deer whereabouts. Any information you have related to deer traffic on your property is valuable to the research team. If you have deer that frequent your

property at the same times during the day or deer trails that the animals are using as corridors, we would welcome the information. You can email your observations to [deer@avalonparkandpreserve.org](mailto:deer@avalonparkandpreserve.org).

During the darting period we will also have a hotline number (1-888-337-1099) you can call to report deer activity in your area. This number will only be active during the duration of field operations. During times of active fieldwork, the team will be housed at Avalon Park and Preserve. Another way to help this project is to donate grocery cards that will help feed our field teams as they work on the project. Please feel free to reach out to Katharine at Avalon Park 631-689-0619 or [deer@avalonparkandpreserve.org](mailto:deer@avalonparkandpreserve.org).

Avalon Park and Preserve will also host the project's web page, where you can access up to date information regarding the project throughout the duration of the study.  
[www.avalonparkandpreserve.org](http://www.avalonparkandpreserve.org)

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas A. Dahlgard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Douglas A. Dahlgard  
Mayor

## Landowner Consent Agreement

This agreement is made by and between \_\_\_\_\_,  
whose address is \_\_\_\_\_ (the  
Landowner), and the Village of Head of the Harbor, having offices at 500 North  
Country Road, St. James, NY 11780.

- A. The Landowner is familiar with the Village's efforts to manage and reduce the population of deer within the Village, referred to in this agreement as the Village's Deer Management Plan (DMP).
- B. The Landowner understands that the Village has engaged the services of the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), a non profit organization with offices at 1225 23<sup>rd</sup> Street NW, Suite 450, Washington, DC
- C. The Landowner is willing to allow the Village, including the Head of the Harbor Police Department (HOHPD), and the HSUS to use the Landowner's property in connection with the DMP as stated in this agreement.

For consideration set forth in this Agreement and other good and valuable consideration, the Landowner and the Village agree as follows:

- 1. The Landowner owns the property located at \_\_\_\_\_, located in the Village of Head of the Harbor, NY (Landowner's Property).
- 2. The Landowner hereby consents to, and the Landowner hereby grants permission to the Village, including the HOHPD and the HSUS to take the following action(s):
  - a) Place or install bait stations on the Landowner's Property for the purpose of darting deer. YES NO
  - b) Discharge a dart gun on the Landowner's Property for the purpose of darting deer. YES NO
  - c) Work up (draw blood for pregnancy test, administer immunocontraceptive vaccine, insert PIT tag and tag ears) sedated deer that may be on the Landowner's Property as a result of darting on the Landowner's Property or another adjacent property. YES NO
  - d) Allow the research team to place trail cameras on the Landowner's Property to assist in population estimations. YES NO
  - e) Statement of no change from 2019: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please check here if you completed paperwork last year and there are no changes)

3. Any action taken on the Landowner's Property will be in accordance with all applicable laws, the guidelines set forth in the license issued by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC), and the agreement between the Village and the HSUS.
4. The Village agrees to indemnify the Landowner for, and save the Landowner harmless from and against, any and all losses, costs, damages, expenses, claims, liabilities, and obligations (including reasonable attorney fees) sustained or incurred by the Landowner as a result of the Village or HSUS performance of the actions that the Landowner has consented to in Section 2 of this agreement, except to any extent sustained or incurred as a result of any action of the Landowner.

Executed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

Village of Head of the Harbor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Representative

Landowner(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Contact telephone number(s):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_