



PALMETTO DUNES

PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

A RESIDENTIAL RESORT COMMUNITY

DEER POPULATION MANAGEMENT POLICY

ISSUED November 19, 2020



GOAL:

The goal of the deer population management program is to identify deer trends in Palmetto Dunes and establish a management program to balance the deer population in Palmetto Dunes with that of humans so that they can coexist in a healthy, safe and nuisance free environment.

OBJECTIVES:

The objectives of the program are as follows:

- At the on-set of the program, and as may be deemed necessary thereafter, provide community education sessions on deer management with a Q&A opportunity;
- At the on-set of the program, and as may be deemed necessary thereafter, collect owner feedback through a survey;
- Annually conduct a deer spotlight survey; and
- Annually review all available data to make informed decisions regarding the management of the deer herd in Palmetto Dunes.

DEFINITIONS:

Cultural Carrying Capacity: As used in this policy, cultural carrying capacity is based on human attitudes, perceptions and the acceptance of a defined maximum number of deer that the community will tolerate.

Sufficient Experience: For purposes of this policy, sufficient experience is defined as that experience that causes, or should cause, a reasonable and prudent person to believe that they possess the knowledge, skills and abilities to complete a specific task.

I. POLICY

The following components establish the policy for the Palmetto Dunes Deer Population Management Program.

A. Education Session

1. At the onset of the program, and from time-to-time as may be directed by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), an educational session shall be made available to the community regarding deer management.



2. As a component of the deer management educational session, an opportunity for Q&A shall be made available to the community.
3. The speakers selected for the educational component shall be made exclusively by the PDPOA management team and should be selected based on knowledge, skills and abilities associated with modern practices involving the management of urban deer populations.

B. Community Survey

1. At the onset of the program, and from time-to-time as may be directed by the CEO, a survey shall be conducted to solicit feedback from the community regarding deer within Palmetto Dunes.
2. The survey should be conducted in a way to objectively evaluate the community's perception of the deer population in Palmetto Dunes. Some of the topics that should be considered include:
 - Health of the herd;
 - Motor vehicle collisions with deer;
 - Non-vehicle related safety issues;
 - Ecological conflicts;
 - Disease related issues; and
 - Cultural carrying capacity (biological, ecological and social);
3. Within a reasonable time of providing, collecting and reviewing the survey data, the results shall be made available to the community.

C. Spotlight Survey

1. On at least an annual basis, PDPOA shall cause to be conducted a deer spotlight survey. The survey shall consist of observations made on at least two separate dates within the same month.
2. Unless PDPOA employs a qualified employee to conduct said survey (such as a certified Wildlife Biologist), PDPOA shall consult with a wildlife management firm who is qualified to conduct the survey.



3. Surveys shall be documented, reviewed and provided to the community within a reasonable time upon completion.

D. Annual Review

1. During the first year of the program, the board of directors shall be responsible for reviewing all of the above information and determine if any action should be taken.
2. In all subsequent years, the CEO shall review all of the above information and determine if any action should be taken.
3. Should the board of directors (in the first year of the program) or the CEO (in all subsequent years) determine that a reduction in the deer population is necessary, the method and tool used to harvest the deer shall be approved by SCDNR.
4. At the onset of the issuance of this policy, it is the intent of PDPOA that the method and tool to be used to harvest the deer shall be a certified sharpshooter operating a sound suppressed firearm.

II. **PROCEDURE**

A. Notification

1. If a cull is directed, the CEO shall be responsible for making notification to the community within a reasonable time prior to initiating a cull. The CEO should not make notification to the community on any specific dates in which the cull may take place.
2. Should a cull not be directed, the CEO shall be responsible for making notification to the community regarding the decision to not conduct a cull.
3. At the earliest possible time, the CEO shall inform the Chief of Security regarding any decisions to conduct a cull.

B. Permitting and Reporting

1. Upon being informed that a cull has been directed, the Chief of Security shall be responsible for making application to South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) for permitting.



2. The Chief of Security shall serve as the liaison for PDPOA regarding all matters associated with the execution of a deer cull.
3. Some of these matters include scheduling, coordinating and supervising the services provided by vendors and making appropriate notification to PDPOA employees, local law enforcement officials, or others when a cull is scheduled.
4. As permitting may change from time-to-time, the Chief of Security shall be responsible for annually reviewing all processes associated with deer culling and permitting.
5. The Chief of Security shall also be responsible for maintaining any paperwork, permits, tags, etc. as may be required by SCDNR, or others.
6. The Chief of Security shall be responsible for submitting any other reports to SCDNR, or others, regarding any matters relating to deer culling and as required by law or policy.
7. SCDNR will only issue permits for periods between September 15 – March 1.

C. Selection of Sharpshooter

1. The Chief of Security shall be responsible for selecting a certified sharpshooter who has sufficient experience to safely execute a deer cull.
2. At minimum, the selection process shall require the applicant to have successfully completed the SCDNR Hunter Safety Course, or its equivalent.
3. The Chief of Security shall be responsible for informing the CEO of their selection.
4. Once the sharpshooter is selected, the sharpshooter shall be contracted with PDPOA prior to performing any work associated with sharpshooting.
5. The sharpshooter may be required to meet additional qualifications, or complete additional training, as required by PDPOA.

D. Execution of Deer Permit

1. The Chief of Security shall be responsible for managing and supervising all aspects associated with sharpshooting within Palmetto Dunes.



2. The sharpshooter shall be required to use a sound suppressed firearm during the process.
3. Prior to the reduction of the deer herd, all locations used to cull deer shall be preapproved in writing by the Chief of Security.

E. Removal and Processing

The Chief of Security shall be responsible for ensuring the following:

- The removal of all deer carcasses;
- For having all deer carcasses processed so that all edible meat is removed; and
- That all edible meat is donated to eleemosynary institutions.

F. Final Reporting

1. The Chief of Security shall be required to submit a final report to SCDNR upon completion of a cull.
2. At minimum, the report shall include the total number of deer removed and their sex. Additionally, the report shall include the approximate number of hours spent during the cull.
3. The Chief of Security shall also provide the CEO with a written after-action review of the process and recommend changes, if any.