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September 1995

## The Probe, Issue # 158 - September 1995

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# Wildlife relocation impacts both animals and humans

*Robert H. Schmidt, Editor, The PROBE*

Within the wildlife damage management profession, there rages a healthy debate concerning the capture and release of wildlife involved in urban and rural damage situations. When skunks, raccoons, opossums, and squirrels are trapped, when is it appropriate to release these animals at another location, and when is it most appropriate to destroy them humanely?

One school of thought argues that healthy animals should be released in good habitat where these animals cannot easily cause additional problems. Another school of thought argues that, since wildlife usually cannot be guaranteed disease-free, and since "good habitat" probably already has resident animals, captured animals should be euthanitized. This also prevents transferring one person's problem animal to another person. Both sides advocate complete compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. However, both philosophies also are involved in influencing state wildlife departments to develop wildlife trapping and handling regulations promoting their particular point of view.

This debate will not be resolved anytime soon, and discussions will continue to be vigorous. I might add that this debate is also healthy. I want to approach this topic from a slightly different perspective, one that looks at the arguments by focusing on both animal welfare and human welfare considerations.

Animal welfare concerns, or the concerns that deal with reducing pain and suffering where possible, are applicable both to the animal captured and the animals already living in the habitat targeted as a release site.

A live-captured skunk, raccoon, squirrel, or opossum is already in a state of stress simply through the process of being captured and confined. If the animal is euthanitized at this point (rapid onset of unconsciousness followed by irreversible loss of brain functions), no additional pain and suffering occurs. If the animal is not destroyed humanely, additional stress occurs during transport to a new location. Once released, an animal in a new environment must find adequate food and shelter for survival.

At any release location, the habitat is either appropriate for the animal or it is not. Is there adequate food and is it available? Are there locations for dens or nests? Is there sufficient time for the animal to adjust to its new surroundings before being killed by predators, people, or vehicles? All of these factors affect the present and future condition and welfare of the animal, and they must be included in the animal welfare "equation".

There is also the question of impacts of this relocation on animals already present on the transplant site. Will the relocated animal introduce additional parasites and diseases to the existing animals, such as distemper, rabies, lice, roundworms, and other welfare-affecting conditions? Will the relocated animal exclude a resident animal from good habitat, leaving only marginal habitat or inadequate habitat as options for the previous resident? Will the relocated animal physically assault resident animals, leading to injury or death? Finally, will the relocated animal or animals modify community dynamics around the release site, affecting the social or population dynamics of all resident animals?

These are all difficult questions, and answers, even for knowledgeable and experienced people, tend to be speculative. Can we ever be 100% certain that relocated animals are not introducing diseases or parasites to resident animals? I doubt it. Is it necessary to be 100% certain? This is probably more important for some conditions, like rabies, than others, such as roundworms. Is 100% an impossible target? What about a level of 98% certainty that released animals are disease-free, or 90% certainty, or 60%? This question will only be answered with the continuation of a heated dialogue within the profession on this topic.

Another issue is the number of animals involved in a relocation effort. Often, one or two animals are released at a site at any one time. However, over time, some operators release large numbers of animals at the same location. As an example, let's say that the company "Wildlife Exploders" (hopefully, this is a fictitious company) has made arrangements with both the state wildlife de-

*Continued on page 7, Col. 1*

# CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**September 10-16, 1995: The Professional Trapper's Short Course, Limberlost Camp, Oliver Lake, Indiana.** Sponsored by Purdue University and the FurTakers of America with a major focus on trapper development and training, but is also valuable to agency personnel. For more information, contact Brian K. Miller, phone (317) 494-3586. To register, contact Charles Park, 410 South Poplar, LaGrange, IN 46761, (219) 463-2072.

**September 12-17, 1995: The Wildlife Society, 2nd Annual Conference, Red Lion Hotels, Portland, OR.** Features some 20 topical symposia, including "Complexities of Addressing Human-Wildlife Conflicts" containing 17 papers on wildlife damage management. Wildlife Damage Management Working Group will meet Sept. 15 at 9:15 a.m. For further information, contact TWS at (301) 897-9770.

**September 18-21, 1995: Southeastern Nuisance Wildlife Management Operators' Shortcourse, Sheraton Hotel and Convention Center, Columbia, South Carolina.** For more information, contact Jackie Ellis, Dept. of Entomology, Clemson Univ., Clemson, SC 29634 phone (803) 656-5048, or Greg Yarrow, Dept. of Aquaculture, Fisheries & Wildlife, Clemson Univ., Clemson, SC 29634, phone (803) 656-7370.

**October 8-11, 1995: Annual Conference of The Society for Vector Control. Holiday Inn University Park, Fort Collins, Colorado.** Contact: Justine Keller, P.O. Box 87, Santa Ana, CA 92702, Telephone (714) 971-2421, FAX (714) 971-3940.

**October 18, 1995: Deer Damage Management in New Jersey: Alternatives for Landscape Professionals. Haggerty Education Center, Morristown, New Jersey.** Sponsored by Amer. Society of Landscape Architects, NJ Chapter. Contact: Helen Heinrich, ASLA, phone (201) 379-1100, FAX (201) 379-6507.

**November 5-8, 1995: Seventh Eastern Wildlife Damage Management Conference. Holiday Inn North, Jackson, Mississippi.** Contact: Phil Mastrangelo, USDA/APHIS/ADC, P.O. Drawer FW, Room 200, Forest Resources Bldg., Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS 39762. *NADCA Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with this Conference.*

**December 13-14, 1995: Coyotes in Texas: A Compendium of Our Knowledge. San Angelo, Texas.** More than 30 speakers will discuss the state of the science relative to coyote biology, ecology, and management. Contact: Dale Rollins, TAMU, 7887 N. Highway 87, San Angelo, TX 76901, phone (915) 653-4576, FAX (915) 658-4364.

## Letters to Editors

Dear Editors:

As a member of the Texas legislature, and also a sheep producer, things such as the problem with leghold traps in Arizona scare hell out of me. Advocates (rural ones, that is) of Initiative and Referendum need to give a second thought to imbalance of population, rural vs. urban, and agriculture related vs. those who don't understand. The numbers simply don't favor us in a referendum, in the event an initiative calls for a vote on issues of concern to us.

Thank you for the job you and the organization does.

*Robert Turner, State Representative  
State of Texas  
House of Representatives*

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**Editors:** Robert H. Schmidt, *Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Utah State University, Logan UT 84322-5210*  
Robert M. Tamm, *Hopland Research & Extension Center, 4070 University Road, Hopland, CA 95449*  
**Editorial Assistant:**  
Pamela J. Tinnin, *160 Mulford Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA 94720*

Your contributions to *The Probe* are welcome. Please send news clippings, new techniques, publications, and meeting notices to *The Probe*, c/o Hopland Research & Extension Center, 4070 University Road, Hopland, CA 95449. Articles and notes can also be sent by e-mail to [rmmtamm@ucdavis.edu](mailto:rmmtamm@ucdavis.edu). If you prefer to FAX material, our FAX number is (707) 744-1040. The deadline for submitting material is the 15th of each month. Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of NADCA.

## Nominations for Officers and Directors

Elections are coming up, and the search for candidates is on. Would you like to influence the direction of NADCA? Care to help in the continuation of existing activities, or establishment of new programs? This is your chance. You don't need to have someone else submit your name — a note or phone call to any member of the nominating committee (or Email to [wrjones@mail.wiscnet.net](mailto:wrjones@mail.wiscnet.net)) will get you on the candidate list. The Committee members are Rich Chipman, Craig Coolahan, Wes Jones, Don Mott, and Steve Vantassel. Every current NADCA member is eligible, with the only imitations being related to the residence requirement for the two Veeps and 9 Regional Directors. And not one dime will be required for campaign funds!

Wes Jones, Route 1 Box 37, Shell Lake WI 54871  
Telephone: 715/468-2038  
Internet: [wrjones@mail.wiscnet.net](mailto:wrjones@mail.wiscnet.net)

# ADC News, Tips, Ideas , Publications . . .

## Massachusetts Court Okays Some Use of "Soft-Hold" Traps

In a unanimous decision, all five justices of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled in favor of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife in a suit regarding the use of "soft-catch" traps. For the first time in 20 years, Massachusetts trappers will be able to lawfully set a foothold trap as a live restraining device this fall. It also means that universities, state and federal agencies can use these traps in research programs or for predator management.

The Court agreed with all points of law that were argued by the Division's attorneys. The high court ordered a lower court to remove an injunction that had been placed on Division regulations. The court did not agree with the points of law that Animal Rights groups had stated. The groups involved were the Humane Society of the United States, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, Massachusetts Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Animals, The Animal Rescue League of Boston, Society for Animal Protective Legislation and Citizens to End Animal Suffering and Exploitation. Two private individuals were also part of the suit.

As the Supreme Judicial Court is the highest court in the commonwealth, there are no appeals. No federal laws are involved, so the case would not go to any federal courts.

## Cousin of Lyme Disease?

There's a new disease on the loose, similar to Lyme disease but perhaps even deadlier, according to medical authorities. A bacterial illness carried by the deer ticks that also transmit Lyme, HGE (human granulocytic ehrlichiosis) was first identified in Minnesota in 1991. The disease is still so new, according to a report in the July 24 issue of *Newsweek*, most doctors don't even look for it. At least 60 cases have been confirmed nationwide, primarily in the Northeast and upper Midwest, and there could be many more. Four patients have died, but experts are divided over whether HGE is truly lethal—or whether underlying medical problems contributed to the fatalities.

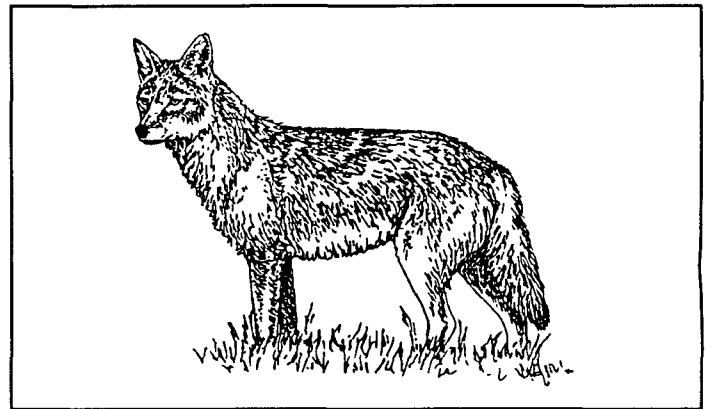
"Diagnosis is difficult," says epidemiologist Dr. Michael Osterholm of the Minnesota State Department of Health. Testing has not been standardized." Often the physician makes an empirical diagnosis, says Dr. Gary Wormser, chief of infectious diseases at the Westchester County Medical Center. If it's summer and a patient develops sudden flulike symptoms, without coughing or nasal congestion, HGE is a likely suspect—especially if the patient remembers a recent tick bite. (Lyme symptoms usually come on more gradually.)

Unlike Lyme disease, which can cause neurological damage and arthritis that last for years, HGE usually clears up quickly and completely.

## Coyotes Continue as Overwhelming Predators Responsible for U.S. Sheep & Lamb Losses

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service reported in June that sheep and lambs lost from animal predators totaled 368,050 during 1994, costing producers an estimated \$17.7 million.

According to findings compiled by USDA's National Agriculture Statistics Service, coyotes were the most significant predator of sheep and lambs, accounting for over 66 percent of the total losses to predators. Dogs, mountain lions, bears, foxes, eagles, bobcats and other animals accounted for the remaining 34 percent of the losses. Coyotes were also the most significant predator of goats, resulting in losses worth \$5.48 million.



"The total number of sheep and lambs lost to predators in 1994 has dropped from 1990, but because we have fewer producers today, we aren't necessarily seeing a decrease in the amount of loss experienced per producer. These statistics confirm only that the ongoing problem of predation of sheep and goats is serious," said Bobby Acord, deputy administrator for APHIS' Animal Damage Control program. The 1990 report estimated the total loss of sheep and lambs at 490,000—over 120,000 more losses than last year.

Copies of the report are available for \$5.00 each from the National Agricultural Statistics Service. Call 1-800-999-6779, Monday through Friday, except holidays, between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m., or write P.O. Box 1608, Rockville, MD 20849-1608.



The editors of **The PROBE** thank contributors to this issue: Robert Turner, Stephen Vantassel, Mike Fall, James E. Forbes, and Wes Jones. Send your contributions to **The PROBE**, 4070 University Road, Hopland, CA 95449.

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# Video Review

*Stephen Vantassel, NWCO Coorespondent*

*"Bat-Free Belfries: A Guide to Bat-Proofing." Produced by Pennsylvania State University, College of Agricultural Services. Content developed by Lisa M. Willias-Whitmer and Margaret C. Brittingham. 23 minutes, 1995.*

**T**his brief video is a splendid introduction to the world of bats and how people can live more harmoniously with these wonderful creatures. After a brief introduction, the video plunges into basic bat biology. They entitled this segment "Bug-Busters". With Batman music in the background, the viewer learns just how important bat colonies are in controlling insects. The segment's purpose is to overcome people's fear of bats by replacing it with respect and admiration for their role in the environment.

The second and third segments get to the issue of how to properly respond to bats in one's house. They begin, appropriately enough, by demonstrating two ways to invite a single bat to leave a room. I personally felt that this segment was by far their strongest. They stated that the bat should be isolated in a single lighted room which has windows opened to the outdoors. The owner should then stand quietly, away from the windows, to observe the bat's departure. The video strongly discouraged chasing the bat because this would only distract the bat from finding an exit from the room. The second demonstration illustrated how to capture a bat resting on the wall for safe releasing outside. By the way, their method doesn't use a tennis racquet. I was concerned, however, that the demonstrator didn't have gloves on. Although the video did say never handle a bat without protection, I thought the warning would have been more reinforced if the individual wore protective gloves.

For people with a bat colony residing in their house, the video discusses the three steps of bat-proofing. First, you stage a "bat watch". A bat watch consists of people standing at each side of your house to watch for where bats emerge. The best times to look are at dusk or the pre-dawn hours. Once you find the holes, you can seal them by using hardware cloth, window screening, caulking compound, or expanding foam. Of course, a one-way door should be applied to the main hole after other holes are sealed. Finally, they suggested that a bat box be positioned on the house before any exclusion began. This way the bats would have some place to live. I was deeply appreciative of the way they frequently suggested that bat proofing be performed in early spring or late fall so that the flightless young could be protected. Their little slogan to remind you when not exclude is quite catchy, "June or July, let them fly."

The final segment covered the construction and placement of bat boxes. Their specific recommendations echoes many of the suggestions offered by Bat Conservation International (P.O. Box 16203, Austin, TX 78716, Tel. 512-327-9721), but with greater applicability for us who live in the Northeast.

Regrettably, the video does have its weaknesses. First, there was no discussion of bat rabies or diseases potentially carried by the bat droppings. I can certainly understand that too much hysteria has surrounded bats and rabies, and perhaps they didn't want to add to it. However, I believe the way to have responded to those exaggerated fears would have been with facts. I think that an educational approach on how to protect ourselves from potential bat borne diseases is especially important in light of the fact that in recent years two children (that I know of) have died of bat rabies (one in N.Y. and one in Washington State).

As one who has been somewhat reticent to perform bat exclusion, I thought the bat-proofing segment should have had more details. It didn't clearly explain what the best products were for bat proofing, such as the mesh size of the hardware cloth or type of caulking compound. I also believe that more effort should have been made to help people determine which holes/cracks absolutely need to be filled before any exclusion was to begin. Simply stating that bats can easily enter through a nickel-sized hole doesn't tell us what size hole they can't enter through.

In sum, I give the video an animal damage control grade of a B. I think it is a valuable video that can help people understand more about bats very quickly and easily. Bat control lecturers should consider using this video to introduce their speeches. The video was well-made with clear, understandable narration and photography. It was nice to watch a video where you didn't have to strain to hear the person talk because the video recorded the noise of a passing jet. Unfortunately, I find the video lacks the ability to create a competent bat controller. While it will certainly educate a novice, the video won't provide enough information to graduate him/her into a professional. Hopefully, Penn State will create a second video which specifically addresses our needs for detail and on-site examples. From the looks of this video, I think they could make a great one.

To obtain your copy, send \$35.00 payable to Penn State to Ag Information Services, The Pennsylvania State Univ., 119 Ag Administration Building, University Park, PA 16802. Please allow 3 weeks for delivery. For more information you can call them at 1-814-865-6309.

*Stephen Vantassel E-mail ADCTRAPPER@aol.com*

# FMC Corp. Publishes Predator Control Brochure

The Agricultural Chemicals Group of FMC Corporation has published a brochure "Hard Facts About Predator Control and Your Options." Single copies are available free by calling toll-free (800) 433-5080.

The brochure emphasizes the message that poisoning of predators, by injecting carcasses or baits with agricultural chemicals not registered for this purpose, is illegal and may result in serious enforcement actions. Such instances of misuse can and do affect non-target species, and persons who willfully misuse pesticides can be prosecuted under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), the Endangered Species Act, the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

A recent survey of sheep ranchers is cited, noting that 35% reportedly were unaware that using pesticides to bait and kill predators is illegal. Further, the study states that 8 of 10 ranchers were unaware of the legal consequences of unlawful baiting with pesticides. FMC further states that a reason for providing this information is to prevent government regulators from removing useful pesticides from the marketplace, because of their unlawful and indiscriminate use by just a few ranchers.

The brochure concludes by briefly describing the various approved means of dealing with predation damage to livestock, including livestock management techniques, use of guard animals, fencing, lighting, and frightening devices. Also briefly described are the uses of traps, snares, shooting, and M-44 ejector devices. The cooperative USDA-APHIS-Animal Damage Control program is prominently mentioned and is recommended as a source of assistance and information to persons needing help in dealing with predator problems.



# New Rabies Vaccine

A genetically engineered vaccinia virus, RM Raboral V-RG™, has been developed by Rhone Merieux, Inc. of Athens, Georgia. The new vaccine is orally administered and is intended for use against rabies in wildlife. Present tests show that when the vaccine is given to raccoons in a bait, the animals are protected when they come in contact with high doses of virulent rabies virus.

The vaccine has been field-tested in Virginia, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. Currently tests are also being conducted in Massachusetts in the search for a control for raccoon rabies, and in South Texas for coyote rabies. In France and Belgium, the vaccine is being used to reduce the prevalence of rabies in red foxes.

According to a report in the *New York Times*, the large scale trial of the vaccine that began last February in the southern tip of Texas seems, at least for the moment, to have virtually stopped the northward march of the disease towards San Antonio.

While final results are not in, Dr. Keith Clark, rabies specialist at the Texas Department of health in Austin, Texas, said only two rabid animals have been found north of the vaccine drop. Texas officials hope the advance has been halted. "At this point," Dr. Clark said, "we want to push the epizootic back to the Rio Grande and the Gulf of Mexico." Similar trials in New Jersey and Massachusetts also indicate that the vaccine is a safe and very powerful weapon against the deadly disease.

Because the Rhone Merieux oral rabies vaccine is produced by splicing a rabies virus glycoprotein gene into a non-pathogenic vaccinia virus by genetic manipulation, the vaccine does not contain rabies virus and cannot induce rabies. During experimental development, it was administered to 59 species of mammals and birds without causing problems. Field safety studies have provided more supportive data and USDA has made a finding of "no significant impact" on the environment associated with this vaccine. During the 10-year development and evaluation period, adverse effects relating to the vaccine have not been noted in people who manufacture the vaccine, prepare and distribute the baits, or live in areas where the baits have been distributed.

Field trials have been so successful, in fact, that RM Raboral V-RG™ was conditionally licensed by USDA for use by state and federal officials in government-sponsored rabies control programs for raccoons. On the other hand, it will not be available for use by private veterinary practitioners or the public. The vaccine is not approved for use in captive animals, i.e., "pet" raccoons, or for individuals to "spot treat" the wildlife around their homes. Deployment of RM Raboral V-RG™ will be contingent upon approval of each state's agency charged with animal health (generally the State Veterinarian's Office), in concurrence with public health and wildlife agencies.

# Evaluation of the Super YardGard Electronic Device for Repelling White-tailed Deer

*Chris Fitzgerald, Paul Curtis, and Milo Richmond, Department of Natural Resources, Cornell Cooperative Extension Wildlife Damage Management Program*

Ultrasonic devices are sometimes used in pest control because homeowners believe they possess properties aversive to animals. The range of detection of audible sound in humans is approximately 20 Hz to 20,000 Hz. Frequencies below 20 Hz (infrasound), and above 20,000 Hz (ultrasound), are not heard by the human ear but can be detected by other species. However, there is little research evidence that indicates ultrasound is more likely to repel animals than is audible sound.

We have received several inquiries from Cornell Cooperative Extension county staff concerning the effectiveness of this new YardGard electronic device. There is no evidence that ultrasound can be detected by or is aversive to birds. Mammals, including rodents, bats, and dogs, are known to detect ultrasound, but similarly exhibit no clear-cut aversive response. In this pilot study we examined the efficacy of the Super YardGard ultrasonic device (Weitech, Inc., Sisters, Oregon) for deterring deer from feeding on a preferred food (apples), to determine if future experimentation was warranted. Four feeding stations were installed at two residential sites near Ithaca with a history of deer damage to ornamental plants. Stations were established so that control (A1 and B1) and experimental (A2 and B2) plots existed at each site. Twenty apples were placed at each feeding station and restocked daily from mid-February to mid-March 1995. After 3 days of baiting, Super YardGard devices were set up at one station at each site. Speakers were set on posts 0.9-1.2 m above the ground and 10 m from the apples, so that the sound ellipse emitted would encompass the feeding station. After another 4 days, the devices were activated at the medium frequency. We monitored deer activity by counting the apples remaining, deer tracks, and deer fecal pellet groups at all feeding stations every 24 hours.

During experimentation at site A before the devices were activated, 128 (91%) and 137 (98%) apples (n=140 offered at each station) were consumed at control (A1) and experimental (A2) stations, respectively. While the devices were on at site A, 175 (97%) and 180 (100%) apples (n=180 offered) were consumed at control and experimental stations, respectively.

At site B before the devices were activated, 68 (68%) and 72 (72%) apples (n=100 offered at each station) were consumed at control (B1) and experimental (B2) stations, respectively. While the devices were on, 188 (94%) and 197 (98%) apples (n = 200 offered) were consumed at control and experimental stations, respectively.

Apple consumption at feeding stations was the only quantitative data which provided a consistent measure of deer activity, while track and pellet counts, and direct observations were useful in confirming that deer were in fact the primary source of apple consumption between control and experimental stations during the pre-baiting or treatment phases of this study. More than 90% of the apples were consumed at both feeding stations whether the device was on or off. At site B, apple consumption during the pre-baiting phase was considerably less (68-72%) than during the treatment phase (94-98%), illustrating both the effect of supplemental feeding in attracting deer and the poor effectiveness of the YardGard for repelling deer.

Behavioral observations made by the homeowners at each site revealed that several deer visited the control and experimental feeding stations while YardGard devices were on. For example, at site A on two separate occasions, 3 deer (one doe and two yearlings) were observed at the experimental feeding station (A2). Apparently, the deer were alerted by the ultrasonic signals but were not deterred from consuming apples. The doe was noticeably more alert and/or agitated (determined by frequent head-lifting, ear-twitching, and hoof-stomping) by the ultrasonic device than were the yearlings, and was the last to approach the apples. The doe fed for a few minutes at the apple pile and then grabbed an apple in her mouth and moved away approximately 30 m before stopping to eat it. The yearlings continued to consume apples at the feeding station while the doe remained at a distance. When the doe had finished her apple, she again approached the feeding station, took another apple and returned to the same spot several meters away.

The YardGard devices exhibited no persistent effects in repelling deer from yards, or in deterring apple consumption. Because these devices did not deter deer from feeding on apples, therefore, YardGards would likely not deter herbivory of other high-preferred ornamentals (i.e., yews, arborvitae, azaleas, etc). Ultrasonic devices may be more effective if they are installed before a deer feeding pattern is developed. However, this may be unrealistic, as most homeowners react only after an intolerable level of deer damage is observed. In conclusion, this study produced no evidence that the Super YardGard electronic device protected the experimental yards from deer activity, or preferred foods from deer damage.

*This article is reprinted from Vol. 6, Spring Summer 1995 issue of Wildlife Damage News published by the Cornell Cooperative Extension Wildlife Damage Management Program.*

## Wildlife Relocation

partment and a local landowner to release raccoons on a 10-acre woodlot surrounded by a mix of agricultural fields and rural homes, about five miles from the edge of the suburbs. Would releasing a single healthy raccoon here have disastrous ramifications? I doubt it very much. But what are the short- and long-term impacts of releasing a raccoon here every other day for six months, or releasing 90 raccoons in a 10-acre woodlot over a period of 180 days?

Certainly there are not 90 raccoons living within that 10 acres! Assuming that this woodlot was excellent habitat for raccoons, there were probably resident raccoons there before the first relocated raccoon was brought in. Without any habitat modification to improve the existing habitat (and increase the raccoon carrying capacity), raccoons have probably left (or died) — 90 in, 90 out, with some relocated raccoons staying, and some resident raccoons being forced to leave. Obviously, when we discuss animal welfare concerns, we must consider the welfare of both resident and relocated animals.

Human welfare considerations are also important decision-making variables. How do wildlife damage management professionals feel when they have to choose between euthanasia and relocation? How do their customers or clients feel?

Aside from the biological issues, most wildlife damage managers feel compassion for the animals they catch, just as they care about their pets or their livestock. Their ethics are torn between euthanasia (giving the animal a “good death”) and “giving the animal a fair chance.” After all, this particular animal may be the one that survives. After all, what harm would it cause to release just this one animal?

In addition, most wildlife damage managers are in the customer satisfaction business, giving the customer what the customer wants. If “Wildlife Exploders” can’t make a potential client happy or satisfied, the client looks elsewhere for assistance, perhaps to “Wildlife Exploders” competitors.

Personally, I believe compassion for animals should not be discouraged, within reason. Compassion protects our families, our pets, and our research and food animals from abuse. Professionalism and personal ethics puts realistic and appropriate boundaries on the extent and limits of this compassion, however. Both animal welfare and human welfare considerations affect our decisions in the “relocate versus euthanize” debate. Perhaps there will be a profession-wide, recognized standard, using an agreed-upon checklist and focusing on key indicators of animal health, that must be met prior to any release. The availability of safe, effective, and economical euthanizing systems or drugs will also make a difference in this debate. The debate will be shaped by your professional perspectives.

## Wolf Damage Control Program Sued

**O**n July 10, 1995, a complaint was filed with the US District Court in Connecticut by Friends of Animals against the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture, and the APHIS/ADC field supervisors. The relief requested is quoted below:

“a. Banning the killing of wolves, absent the required documentation establishing an actual connection between livestock damage and the wolf or wolves, claimed to have committed such damage;

b. Banning the killing of wolves, absent adequate proof that farmers, complaining of livestock depredation, have substantiated the implementation of those steps necessary to insure protection of livestock, specifically the fencing of properties and the removal of livestock carcasses, which pose a needless attraction for the wolves;

c. Banning the killing of wolves, absent documentation by the Defendants that all farmers, complaining of livestock depredation, deploy all non-lethal methods to prevent livestock depredation by wolves, including the use of guard dogs and various frightening devices;

d. Banning the killing of wolf pups, less than one year old;

e. Requiring the Defendants to implement all steps necessary to insure adequate protection of orphaned wolf pups, less than one year old, for example, by preserving the adult wolves upon whom the orphaned pups are dependent during the first 25 % of each pup’s life;

f. Banning the killing of wolf families (packs), absent adequate documentation that a particular wolf or wolves, claimed to have committed livestock damage, has been causally connected to such livestock damage; and

g. Banning the use of any inhumane treatment of wolves, including those correctly targeted for capture, namely, the steel jaw leghold trap and wire neck snares — both such traps constitute inhumane and horrific treatment of wolves and have been condemned by the Courts for this purpose.”

Back to the real world — the formal complaint covers 10 pages in a similar vein. At the time of this writing it is rumored that a large conservation organization will countersue — a very interesting development!



TIME VALUED MATERIAL -  
DO NOT DELAY

Scott Hyngstrom  
Forestry, Fisheries & Wildlife  
202 Nat. Resources Hall  
University of Nebraska  
Lincoln, NE 68583-0819

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### Membership Application

### NATIONAL ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL ASSOCIATION

Mail to: Wes Jones, Treasurer, Route 1 Box 37, Shell Lake, WI 54871, Phone: (715) 468-2038.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ Home

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ Office

Additional Address Info: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Class: Student \$10.00 Active \$20.00 Sponsor \$40.00 Patron \$100 (Circle one)

Check or Money Order payable to NADCA

Select one type of occupation or principal interest:

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- ☐ USDA - APHIS - ADC or SAT
- ☐ USDA - Extension Service
- ☐ Federal - not APHIS or Extension
- ☐ Foreign
- ☐ Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator
- ☐ Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Pest Control Operator
- ☐ Retired
- ☐ ADC Equipment/Supplies
- ☐ State Agency
- ☐ Trapper
- ☐ University