



# QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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20 July 2010

Hon. Edward G. Staback  
Game & Fisheries Committee, Majority Chairman  
225 Irvis Office Building, PO Box 202115  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2115

Dear Representative Staback,

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) I am writing to state our support for HB 2526 which would allow the use of leashed tracking dogs to help recover wounded big game animals. The QDMA is a national nonprofit wildlife conservation organization dedicated to ensuring the future of white-tailed deer, wildlife habitat and our hunting heritage. The QDMA has over 45,000 members nationwide with Pennsylvania ranking fifth in statewide membership. Our membership includes more than 3,000 of the nation's leading deer biologists, researchers and managers. As such, QDMA is widely regarded as the most respected whitetail organization in the United States.

The inability to locate a wounded game animal is devastating to a hunter. Irrespective of skill level, most hunters will at some point in their hunting career be unable to find an animal they have wounded. Rain, terrain and several other factors can play a role in these unfortunate situations, but regardless of cause, society does not like to see or hear about such events. Hunters and policy makers have a moral and ethical responsibility to do everything in their power to make sure every wounded animal is recovered.

Seventeen other northern states including New York have helped reduce the rate that wounded animals are not located by allowing the use of leashed tracking dogs. Trained dogs can be extremely effective at locating wounded or dead game, and since they are leashed they do not harass other wildlife. Tracking dogs locate specific animals by following blood and scent of the wounded individual rather than haphazardly searching for other animals. Their use has received overwhelming support in these states. This common-sense measure has also helped improve hunting's public image by providing ethical hunters with another tool to demonstrate their dedication to and appreciation of the wildlife resource.

In closing, we ask your support for HB 2526. The Bill is good for hunters, society and Pennsylvania's natural resources. Thank you for your consideration and please contact me with any questions.

Respectfully,

Kip P. Adams  
Director of Education & Outreach

*The future of deer hunting.*