



# QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Date: October 2, 2006  
To: Pennsylvania Game Commissioners  
From: Kip P. Adams, Director of Education & Outreach - Northern Region, QDMA  
Re: Baiting proposal

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) I wish to provide our support for allowing baiting for deer in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia Counties specifically to increase the deer harvest and balance those deer herds with the habitat. The QDMA is a national nonprofit wildlife conservation organization dedicated to ethical hunting, sound deer management and preservation of the deer-hunting heritage. Among QDMA's 40,000 members are more than 1,500 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 Pennsylvania Game Commission has made great strides in the past few years with respect to deer management. The Game Commission's newest challenge is urban and suburban deer management and the issue of baiting deer. Baiting is defined as the placement of food to aid in harvesting deer. Baiting can be an effective tool to increase harvest opportunities to meet deer management goals, especially in urban and suburban areas where access to huntable land is limited. However, several aspects of baiting are cause for concern. Potential negative consequences include transmission of diseases, alteration of deer movement patterns, impacts on surrounding habitat, impacts on hunter skill and success, social and ethical issues, and legal and enforcement issues.

The QDMA looks at every deer management proposal on a case-by-case basis. In general we oppose baiting where it does not currently exist, but given the relationship between the deer herds and habitat in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia Counties, and the fact that no known disease concern exists within those herds, the QDMA supports the use of bait in these urban counties to meet the Commission's harvest objectives. Specifically, those objectives are to increase the deer harvest and help balance those deer herds with the habitat and minimize their biological and social conflicts.

A strong educational campaign aimed at informing the landowners and hunters in the affected counties on the expected benefits of baiting could prove advantageous to your urban deer management program. The QDMA and its local Branches stand ready to assist with any such educational efforts. Thank you for the opportunity to provide our views.

Respectfully,

Kip P. Adams  
Director of Education & Outreach / Wildlife Biologist

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*The QDMA is dedicated to ethical hunting, sound deer management  
and the preservation of the deer-hunting heritage.*

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