

The City of Dublin's Deer Management Program

Shaping a Balanced Ecosystem



Ethical Statement:

The City of Dublin is committed to responsible and ethical wildlife management that preserves ecological balance, protects public safety and reflects community values. Deer are an important part of the natural environment, and their management requires a careful, science-based approach to ensure the deer population's long-term health and our community's long-term safety.

In suburban areas, deer populations often grow as landscaped spaces provide abundant food and limited natural constraints. This can lead to habitat damage, reduced biodiversity, vehicle collisions and aggressive deer encounters. Excessive deer grazing can also prevent young trees and native plants from growing naturally, reducing habitat for birds, pollinators and other wildlife, weakening the health of the local ecosystem.

Guidance from the Ohio Division of Wildlife, United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services and other agencies recognizes that active deer population management may be necessary to maintain ecological balance and protect public safety. Dublin's approach is guided by data and ongoing monitoring. When needed, targeted removal is used as part of a comprehensive strategy to maintain sustainable population levels. This work is conducted in alignment with animal welfare standards from the United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services, which call for trained and licensed professionals, appropriate firearms and ammunition and strict safety protocols, providing the highest level possible of respect for animals and the community. Whenever possible, venison will be processed and donated to the Dublin Food Pantry.

While non-lethal methods such as relocation, sterilization and fertility control are often discussed, these options are either prohibited by law or not feasible at Dublin's scale. Deer relocation is illegal in Ohio due to animal welfare and disease concerns, while sterilization and fertility control are permitted only for research purposes and would be ineffective in a community as populated and open as Dublin.

The City of Dublin remains committed to transparency and community engagement. Our goal is to support a balanced ecosystem while maintaining the quality of life and safety that defines our exceptional community.