

Fall 2021/Winter 2022 Field Report

Another year is in the books for the Clifton Deer Program, and we have more good news to report:

- About 99% of the adult does in the study area (the ~1 sq. mi. bounded by I-75, Ludlow Ave, and Clifton Ave) are sterilized
- **The study area deer population is down 9% in the past year and 36% since the program began**
- Births are down from 16 fawns per 25 adult does to ***fewer than one fawn per 25 adult does***
- Thanks to our local volunteers and the UCAN Nonprofit Spay and Neuter Clinic, our operating costs for 2021/2022 were ***less than \$6,500***

Imagine if the herd had been *growing* all these years instead!

Now what? Good question!

Our primary goal is to allow normal attrition in our aging deer herd to lower the population to what the Clifton community and the Cincinnati Parks decide is a socially acceptable and eco-sustainable level. This means we'll continue to sterilize any immigrants (so far, one or two per year) who move into the study area. Here's a fun possibility - there could come a time when the population is low enough that *adding* a few fawns to the herd will be welcome!

We'll also continue to sterilize "border deer" (deer whose primary residence are woods adjacent to the study area, but who sometimes make incursions into the study area) as opportunities arise. These deer are frustratingly elusive, so the only truly effective way of reaching them would be to expand the program to include a larger part of the Clifton neighborhood (something that would require state and local approval as well as additional funding).

The Clifton Deer Program owes its success to our generous donors, intrepid volunteers, and the neighbors who volunteer their yards for bait sites and report deer sightings through the "Report Tagged Deer" portal at cliftondeer.org. Thanks to all!