

## Fall 2022/Winter2023 Field Report

In the chilly pre-dawn hours of February 12<sup>th</sup>, volunteers with the Clifton Deer Program quietly watched as 1.5 year old Doe #95 awoke in an Amazon Avenue yard and strolled off to rejoin her family after being spayed by a veterinarian. She was the seventh and final deer to be treated during Clifton Deer's 2022/2023 field season.

One deer treated this season (Doe #90) immigrated into the study area last Summer and resides in the Scarlet Oaks area. The other six were captured near Clifton Ave, along the northeast border of our study area (the ~1 sq. mile bounded by I-75, Ludlow Ave, and Clifton Ave). These deer appear to have home ranges that lie mostly east of Clifton Ave (outside of the study area) but that overlap with the northeast corner of the study area. Because they are only in the study area part-time, capturing them took a lot of patience as well as skill by our intrepid darters!

Our annual post-operations population survey demonstrated continued progress toward the goal of an eco-sustainable deer population: The study area deer population is down 4.8% since last year and **39% since the program began**. With an aging herd and very few new fawns (~98% of the adult does within the study area are sterilized), we expect the population level to continue its gradual decline as long as immigration stays relatively low.

Thanks to our dedicated volunteers and the generosity of UCAN Nonprofit Spay and Neuter Clinic, our annual operating costs remained below \$8000 for the second year in a row.

The Clifton Deer Program is grateful to our generous donors, enthusiastic and unflappable volunteers, and the gracious neighbors who volunteer their yards for bait sites and who report deer sightings through the "Report Tagged Deer" portal at [www.cliftondeer.org](http://www.cliftondeer.org).