

**Using Dogs to Haze Urban Deer**  
**BC Ministry of Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations**  
**April 20, 2012**

In communities experiencing high numbers of urban deer where there is public opposition of lethal control measures, proposals have been put forward to use trained dogs to chase the deer (haze) out of town.

Currently there is no provision that would authorize a person to use a dog to harass or haze wildlife. Consideration of permitting this activity would require further policy discussion as well as government approval for an amendment to regulation.

Section 78 of the *Wildlife Act* prohibits the use of dogs to harass wildlife. It reads:

"A person commits an offence if the person causes or allows a dog to hunt or pursue

(a) wildlife or an endangered species or threatened species, or

(b) game, except in accordance with the regulations."

Regulations do allow the use of dogs to hunt wildlife in specific circumstances, but would not apply in cases of urban deer. Dogs can only be used in hunting deer where the dog is on a leash and under the direct control of the person, as part of a scheduled open season, by a person holding a valid hunting licence.

Hazing of ungulates using dogs has occurred in National Parks in Alberta, however all land is owned by the federal government and wild lands exist directly outside of the towns. Using dogs to haze ungulates becomes much more complicated in urban areas. Associated risks or complications with this activity can include:

- Deer becoming a traffic hazard
- Deer causing property damage
- Deer becoming injured
- Deer becoming a nuisance in adjacent farmland or nearby communities
- Requiring land owner permission to access properties

In consideration of the risks and the current Policy restrictions, this Ministry is not currently contemplating permitting the hazing of urban deer by dogs.