

Tues., Oct. 18, 2005
CSAC (Community Room)
7:30 p.m.

Deer Task Force Meeting Notes

Chair Karen Olson convened the October 18th evening meeting of the Deer Task Force committee with a warm welcome to its guests Dave Pauli from The Humane Society of the United States, Dr. Jay Kirkpatrick, preeminent wildlife biologist and co-discoverer of Porcine Zona Pellucida (PZP) Immunocontraception, and Mike Kintigh, Regional Director of the SD Game, Fish and Parks Department.

Routine business of the Deer Task Force (DTF) was adjourned to a date to be announced.

In attendance were DTF committee members Bill Rasmussen, Mike Forrette, Pat Mexican, and Chris Heacock. In addition, Chair Karen Olson welcomed long-time animal rights activists Carol Layton and Julie Anderson.

In his haste, to his chagrin, the note taker forgot his trusty tape-recorder the night of the 18th, which is to say, all corrections, emendations, additions and subtractions to these very general notes are most welcome. And, it might prove useful to gather under one roof, so to speak, general impressions of the evening.

The note taker does not propose here to offer what can only pale in comparison to the elucidating and engaging presentation proffered by Dr. Kirkpatrick over a two hour period; however, several salient details lend themselves to the full attention of one who cares deeply about the advancement of non-lethal and humane alternatives to urban deer herd management policy.

The respect and consideration shown by Mike Kintigh and Dr. Kirkpatrick for one another as professionals is worth noting, not only because it is gratifying to see human beings aspire to the best that resides in each of us, but because it can provide the basis of a future working relationship, as well.

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Dr. Kirkpatrick adamantly and unequivocally affirmed that not only does PZP Immunocontraception “work,” but that it was designed expressly to address conditions as

exist within the pockets of deer herds as witnessed in a selected tour of Rapid City earlier in the day.

Mike Kintigh raised extremely relevant and provocative questions as to PZP Immunocontraception and the nature of migratory deer.

Cost of the PZP vaccine per se is minimal. Through a not-for-profit corporation, Dr. Kirkpatrick and staff under the aegis of The Humane Society of the United States produce and distribute the vaccine at cost. Labor is the overriding cost factor in any potential PZP vaccination program. Historically, proponents and opponents both have skewed the cost of labor to their own ends, but ultimately, funding has not been the deciding factor in whether or not to proceed with a vaccination program, or study, if you will, which must be conducted under a special permitting process with both the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and The Humane Society of the United States, a process that culminates in the issuance of an INAD (Investigational New Animal Drug).

Ultimately (at least to this ear), legal challenges and administrative hurdles notwithstanding, Mike Kintigh indicated that his office would not stand in the way of a pilot PZP Immunocontraception program.

Respectfully submitted for approval,

Adrian M. Forrette