



## *British Columbia* **Deer Protection Society**

January 8, 2016.

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Minister, Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations  
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Dear Minister Thomson,

We are writing to urge you to end the deer cull in Cranbrook BC. We have video footage and photos of three separate incidents regarding the Cranbrook cull currently underway.

### **Incidents:**

1. The first incident shows a doe on video pacing in the trap for hours providing contrary evidence to Ministry and City claims that the deer, once trapped simply lie down until the cull contractors arrive.
2. The second incident, over a six minute period, shows a fawn on video pacing back and forth trying to get out. The cull contractors arrive, collapsing the trap and applying the bolt gun. The fawn moves and the cull contractors apply the bolt gun for a second time. The video shows the fawn still moving as they erect the trap for removal and even as the cull contractor drags the fawn away by his or her rear leg. The cull contractor returns immediately to cover the now collapsed trap, leaving this animal still alive and unattended. A total of six minutes passed between the arrival of the cull contractors and the removal of the deer.

The video footage shows that the fawn was not “dispatched” as the Permit’s Method of Capture states. The animal moves after the first bolt gun application. The cull contractors finally notice and apply the bolt gun for a second time, nearly two minutes after the first bolt gun application. Despite the second application, the fawn is seen moving as the trap is erected and as the contractor drags the animal away. No plastic sled is visible in the video. The Permit states: *Two (2) contractors will quickly collapse each Clover trap with the deer inside and dispatch the animal immediately and humanely with a bolt gun; Contractors promptly re-establish the trap from its collapsed state, open the gate and move the deer into a plastic sled for transfer to a waiting vehicle; deer must not be visible while in the vehicle*

3. The third consists of photos that show two fawns in a trap that has collapsed on them. They remain tangled and compressed at least two hours prior to the arrival of the cull contractors. This incident is clearly a violation of the Permit. The Ministry needs to act immediately.

### **No oversight by the Ministry or the City of Cranbrook:**

There appears to be no oversight by Ministry or municipal staff to ensure that the cull contractors are following the requirements of the permit. Violations have occurred on at least two of the three recently documented incidents. How many more violations have there been as a result of an absence of oversight?

We have repeatedly asked the Ministry to collect data from deer carcasses prior to processing to determine the condition of the deer killed during the cull. We have asked for information including the number of bolt gun applications to the skulls, documentation of body injury due to the trap and any indication of capture myopathy. The permit which requires the cull contractor to keep a “Record of Wildlife Hunted, Trapped or Killed” still does not require the collection of any information regarding the condition of the animals upon death. To my knowledge this information has not been collected by the Ministry. If it has, it has not been made public or been part of the reports of the municipalities conducting culls.

### **Conclusion:**

Given the documentation we have concerning violations of the permit we urge you in the strongest possible terms to stop this cull immediately, investigate the violations of the permit and lay charges where appropriate.

Sincerely,



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**Deer in the collapsed trap**  
**Photo taken January 8, 2016**





**Two deer in the collapsed trap**  
**Photo taken January 8, 2016**

