



Oklahoma Wildlife Commission
1801 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

December 15th, 2025

Re: Release of Captive-Raised Deer

Dear Chair Holder & Members of the Oklahoma Wildlife Commission

The Boone and Crockett Club and the Pope & Young Club understand that you may soon be petitioned to decide on a policy to allow the release of captive-raised deer to stem the spread of chronic wasting disease. We respectfully ask that you reject such a proposal.

We have been closely monitoring the latest developments of the scientific community regarding chronic wasting disease and remain concerned by the spread of this disease. In closely examining the latest research regarding “genetic durability” or “genetic resistance” to CWD in cervids, we do not find it possible that selective breeding could address the issue of CWD outside of closely monitored and controlled captive breeding operations.

If such a policy proposal does advance and individuals initiate the release of captive-raised deer into the wild, our respective records committees would be forced to consider the implications for accepting record book entries from anywhere in Oklahoma. This decision would be made in light of the Boone and Crockett Club’s longstanding position that genetically-manipulated game is not eligible for entry, as further described in its position statement on the [Genetic Manipulation of Game](#), which Pope & Young supports.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further with you, as well as the leaders of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, at your convenience.

Yours in Conservation,

Tony Schoonen, CEO
Boone and Crockett Club

Justin Spring, Executive Director
Pope & Young Club