

**Conservation Federation of Missouri
2014 Resolutions**

Committee: Deer, Wild Turkey and Elk
Author: Denver Long

#31

Captive Wildlife Inspection Program Resolution

WHEREAS, the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) has permitted approximately 27 high-fence shooting preserves in Missouri with white-tailed deer, and approximately 277 white-tailed deer wildlife breeders; and

WHEREAS, these approximately 304 confined deer businesses are not subjected to any routine fencing inspection; and

WHEREAS, current inspection records are neither electronically catalogued nor centrally located; and

WHEREAS, inspection records are only retained for three years, making identifying a history of violations difficult; and

WHEREAS, there is a history of record keeping discrepancies per a review of MDC captive wildlife inspection records; and

WHEREAS, records management systems within Missouri's captive wildlife industry are widely variable and poorly standardized; and

WHEREAS, there are no standards and wide variance in the thoroughness of inspection paperwork; and

WHEREAS, there is no documentation of any fines or citations despite annotations of several violations noted on inspection records; and

WHEREAS, despite legal requirement for deer facilities to immediately report escaped deer to MDC, the MDC has not produced any records of immediate reporting of escaped deer, instead the MDC only records deer escapes on annual inspections; and

WHEREAS, there is no mandatory testing of deceased animals: now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO, requests the Missouri Department of Conservation to revise and improve its process, policies and regulations pertaining to the inspection, recordkeeping and enforcement of regulations that apply to captive cervid facilities in the following respects:

1. Increase the frequency of inspection of captive cervid facilities to at least one mandatory inspection per year; and
2. MDC should consistently issue citations for documented violations; and
3. MDC should develop standard reporting forms to be used by Missouri's captive cervid industry; and
4. MDC should electronically store and maintain captive wildlife inspection records at a central location for a minimum of fifteen years; and
5. MDC should implement a program to train MDC personnel to thoroughly and uniformly inspect deer facilities; and
6. The MDC Protection Division should publish an annual report of captive wildlife program including number of inspections, escapes, mortalities, citations issued and fines assessed.