

## Policy for Deer Herd Culling within Village East

1. Primary Objectives of this policy:
  - a. Safety
  - b. Sensitivity of issue (deer hunting) within VEPOA
  - c. Protection of property owner rights
  - d. Fulfill mandate given in the June 2010 annual VEPOA meeting.
2. Facts:
  - a. Virginia law states that it is unlawful to hunt on private property without the explicit permission of the landowner. In addition, licensed hunters must have the permission of the landowner to track or retrieve wounded game on private property.
  - b. Virginia law also states that it is unlawful to feed deer during specific times (generally September-January)
  - c. Additional regulations that govern hunting may be found in “Hunting and Trapping in Virginia (Current year)” published by DGIF. Residents are referred to those regulations.
3. Policy
  - a. The VEPOA cannot regulate, allow, or disallow hunting on private property. That is the specific provision of State law and regulation. Therefore, hunting on individually owned lots within Village East can only occur with explicit permission of the individual property owner; the same provision applies to retrieval of game.
  - b. The VEPOA cannot and will not assume any liability or responsibility for hunting on private property.
  - c. The VEPOA can regulate licensed hunting on common property within Village East. The VEPOA policy regarding common property follows:
    - (1). Hunting is prohibited on common property.
    - (2). Retrieval of game (if necessary) may be conducted and is, in fact, mandated.
    - (3). No field dressing is allowed on common property.
  - d. Where individually owned lot owners allow hunting on their lot, Virginia State Game Law and regulations and local ordinances should be obeyed.

The owner should obtain the permission of adjacent lot owners to allow either hunting or retrieval from their lot. This includes obtaining release/waivers as appropriate. Common courtesy, safety and respect of all property owners should always be observed. Neighbors should be notified of this activity in advance. Removal/retrieval of game should be accomplished in a timely manner.

Policy Adopted: September 25, 2010