

child wants to field-dress their first deer, more power to them, but don't insist on it. My kids assisted me by holding one of the deer's legs, and all the while they couldn't stop talking about the amazing encounter and the shot. There will be other days for field-dressing tutorials, and certainly at some point they need to master the skill, but not on their first deer.

**Field-dressing gear:** Keep your hunting clothes clean by packing a pair of elbow-length field-dressing gloves. For kids who are tentative about reaching inside the cavity of a deer, the gloves help immensely. And buy a Sagen Saw for dealing with the pelvic bone. It makes the entire field-dressing job much easier.

Good luck to you and your family this firearms deer season!

**Deer Population Control**

By Johnny Kirby

In past articles in this publication, we have discussed the problem of population growth of White tail deer in many urban areas. We have seen many different attempts to control this problem. Since opening hunts in urban areas poses safety concerns, other programs like relocation is a good option.

This has been done for years in cities in Texas, especially in the Hill Country. New York City has a different idea about how to curb the prolific population growth of White tail deer. Mayor Bill de Blasio and other officials are offering a solution for New York's Staten Island. The proposal is to spend over 2 million dollars over the next three years to provide vasectomies for the bucks and release them back into Staten



**Good Hunting Fun!** Noah Murray, age 6 last season, brought down this doe and spike on his grandparents' ranch between Robert Lee and San Angelo. He is the son of Bartley and Jennifer Murray of Miles. He took the doe using a 22-250, and the spike with a .223.



Island. First, they are only going to be able to "fix" a small portion of the bucks. Second, the deer will need to be tranquilized for the procedure. Why not relocate both does and bucks to more rural areas. The biggest complaints from Staten Island residents is the deer are eating their yards and gardens. Also, the damage to vehicles from deer impacts is a major concern. What they seem to be saying is that they like the White tails but don't like their eating and reproducing habits. Obviously those of us that are familiar with deer realize these ideas will never work because the deer in that area have no natural enemies and New York will not allow anyone to harvest the deer with a rifle or a bow.

Another proposal, and the most ridiculous one, suggested by the University of Washington, would be to introduce Mountain Lions

to control the growing deer population. I can't imagine anyone in their right mind would consider this for Staten Island. However, a recent study released by the University, suggests that this could be an effective way to accomplish this. According to this study, a Mountain Lion will kill about 266 deer in its lifetime (that's pretty specific). To me this only shows how irresponsible and dangerous this would be in an urban area. We know that mountain lions are opportunistic killers and will not only prey on deer but also on the human population and livestock as well as your pets. But remember we ARE talking about New York! I certainly hope this option will not be seriously considered in Staten Island or anywhere else for that matter. Just use good judgment and relocate the deer like other successful folks have done.

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