

Why Ban Deer Dog Hunting in Orange County?

1. Safety – Deer Dog Hunting is not compatible with the growing population and land distribution of Orange County:
 - Lot sizes are too small to assure that dogs and hunters will not interact in a dangerous way with residents;
 - Population Density is too high to guarantee dog hunting, which occurs mainly on roads, won't cause injury or death from illegal shots fired from the road, or dog/car deer/car accidents;
 - There have been many dangerous confrontations between landowners and armed groups of dog hunters.
2. Property Rights – Landowner rights must take precedence over hunting privileges;
 - Dog hunters cannot guarantee that their dogs will not cross onto unauthorized private property, indeed dogs routinely chase deer over posted property into the road, where they are shot;
 - Dogs and hunters do damage to the property and possessions of landowners;
 - Dog hunting is a loud and obtrusive sport that interferes with the peace, and quality of life of landowners.
3. Limited Resources – This past year the sheriff posted extra patrols in North Orange County in an effort to maintain safety, reduce property damage, and maintain the peace. These resources were appreciated by the residents, but could be better spent fighting / preventing more severe crime.
4. Public Consensus - Orange County residents are opposed to dog hunting as determined by the WRC in a 2008 study titled SURVEY OF LANDOWNERS WHO OWN LARGE TRACTS OF LAND [at least 5 acres] CONCERNING DEER MANAGEMENT AND HUNTING : A few of the highlights that can be found in the Executive Summary are as follows:
 - 55% of landowners felt their land was too small to allow other people to hunt their property;
 - 66% of landowners were concerned about injury as a result of others hunting their property;
 - 64% of landowners were concerned about trespassing;
 - 70% of landowners said deer dog hunting should be illegal (report actually states that 30% say it should be legal).

Here are a few quotes from the many emails sent to the BOCC from concerned citizens (These are in the BOCC public record):

- *"My concerns about Deer Dog Hunting in North Orange County arise from Safety Concerns, Property Rights, and Peace and Quiet"*
 - *"Deer dog hunters routinely shoot from the road which is illegal and unsafe. In addition, they run their dogs over private posted property without permission. They claim they cannot control their dogs. This alone should be cause to ban the practice. Finally, listening to their big trucks speed up and down the road for hours and days, listening to the dogs bark as they run through my property, and listening to people shooting close to my home (whom I do not know) is both disturbing and alarming."*
 - *"A dangerous confrontation occurred on a hunting day when we approached the hunters as they were lined up along the road sitting on chairs with loaded guns waiting for deer to run out and we asked them not to shoot from the road near our pastures and horses. They were upsetting our horses and we feared one of them could be shot or cause injuries to each other. Rather than moving up the road away from our home and horses the hunters became agitated, argumentative and pointed their guns at us."*
 - *"If Orange County continues to allow these dangerous activities, then Orange County should be fully responsible for the consequences"*
 - *"Who should bear the costs of acts such as these? It is the property owners who pay the vet bills, fence repairs, etc. Property owners pay Orange County hefty property taxes, but yet Orange County does not protect property rights. Why is that?"*
5. Consistent Boundaries – Deer Dog Hunting is banned in adjoining Alamanace and Durham Counties, as well as Orange County south of Interstate 85. Allowing this "island" of dog hunting puts undue pressure on the residents and resources of Orange County.