



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Proponent Testimony – House Bill 267
November 17, 2015

Anita W. Coupe, Esq.
Chair of the Board

Jennifer Leaning, M.D., S.M.H.
Vice Chair of the Board

Eric L. Bernthal, Esq.
Second Vice Chair of the Board

Walter J. Stewart, Esq.
Board Treasurer

Wayne Pacelle
President & CEO

Michael Markarian
Executive Vice President & COO

G. Thomas Waite III
Treasurer & CFO

Andrew N. Rowan, Ph.D.
Chief International Officer
& Chief Scientific Officer

Roger A. Kindler, Esq.
General Counsel & CLO

Janet D. Frake
Secretary

Holly Hazard, Esq.
Chief Innovations Officer

Laura Maloney
Chief of Staff

DIRECTORS

Jeffrey J. Arciniaco
Eric L. Bernthal, Esq.

Barbara S. Brack
Jerry Cesak

Anita W. Coupe, Esq.
Neil B. Fang, Esq., C.P.A.

Jane Greenspun Gale
Jonathan D. Kaufelt, Esq.

Paula A. Kislak, D.V.M.
Jennifer Leaning, M.D., S.M.H.

Kathleen M. Linehan, Esq.
John Mackey

William F. Mancuso
Mary I. Max

Patrick L. McDonnell
Judy Ney

Sharon Lee Patrick
Judy J. Peil

Marian G. Probst
Jonathan M. Ratner

Joshua S. Reichert, Ph.D.
Walter J. Stewart, Esq.

Andrew Weinstein
Jason Weiss

Persia White
David O. Wiebers, M.D.

Lona Williams

Chairman Landis, Vice Chairman Hagan, Ranking Member O'Brien and members of the committee, my name is Corey Roscoe and I am the State Director for the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). The Humane Society of the United States is the largest and most effective animal protection organization in the nation.

The HSUS supports the overall intent of HB267, but feel certain clarifying language is needed.

The HSUS strongly agrees that deer rehabilitation should be allowed in Ohio. When people find an injured or orphaned deer, they want a humane solution for that animal. When told their only option is to have the fawn euthanized or left to die, people become inspired to take matters into their own hands, which may result in a fawn being raised improperly or as a pet. Allowing the rehabilitation of injured and orphaned deer is needed.

We support the need for law enforcement officers to receive training in appropriate deer euthanasia methods, so that they can humanely kill deer that are mortally wounded or sick.

The HSUS supports the licensing of deer sanctuaries as long as it is clearly stipulated that such sanctuaries only take in truly non-releasable deer. The HSUS believes that deer who become non-releasable due to the public's compassionate but misguided actions should not receive an automatic death sentence. A sanctuary license holder that can accommodate the needs of wild deer and keep public safety in mind can provide a good and humane solution for their plight. However, we do feel that additional language is needed which stipulates that these sanctuaries are only for those deer who are truly non-releasable due to the nature of their injuries or ailments, or due to being human-habituated to an extent that such conditioning is irreversible. It needs to also be stated that sanctuaries are not for the rearing of wild orphaned fawns that might otherwise be released.

It may be worth considering an additional provision be added requiring deer

sanctuary licensing applicants to receive some training on the subject of deer rehabilitation or having prior hands-on experience at a facility which rehabilitates deer.

It is important to recognize that fawns often become orphaned because people wrongly assume a fawn found alone is orphaned. For this reason we strongly recommend a public education and outreach program in the Spring which stresses that it's normal for fawns to be found lying down alone in yards and fields because their mother only returns to nurse them a few times a day, and stays away the rest of the time to avoid attracting predators. People need to be advised to just leave fawns alone, or to put them back exactly where they were found, unless its certain that the mother is dead, or unless the fawn has been wandering and vocalizing all day. Rehabilitators need to be advised to carefully screen public calls to ensure that only true orphans are admitted for rehabilitation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee for your consideration.

Corey Roscoe
Ohio State Director
The Humane Society of the United States