

# **ATA Deer Protection Program**

## **Oversight Advisory Working Group**

### **Roles / Responsibilities / Expectations**

#### **Purpose**

The primary purpose of the Oversight Advisory Working Group (OAWG) is to provide recommendations and advice to the Archery Trade Association regarding the merits and implementation of the Deer Protection Program (DPP). Establishment of a third-party professionally-based oversight committee and associated review process is targeted to provide added assurance to the ATA and other interested partners that certified participants and products are strictly adhering to program details. OAWG members provide recommendations only to ATA who will retain ultimate responsibility and decision making authority regarding program acceptance and certification.

#### **Working Group Member Configuration**

The ATA is targeting a dynamic Working Group consisting of no less than 3 nor more than 8 members. The ATA's intention is that the Working Group should be small enough to operate efficiently and include representation sufficient to provide quality advice regarding the ATA Deer Protection Program and its implementation. ATA will seek and maintain a diverse representation including state fish and wildlife agency personnel (most importantly) as well as members from the scent industry (manufacturers and urine producers), NGOs and other relevant professional organizations.

Ideally, state wildlife agency representation should be geographically diverse, with an attempt to have at least one agency representative from multiple regional (state wildlife agency) Associations. Flexibility in membership is important and will be dynamic, however, the ATA's "target" configuration for this group would be to have multiple state wildlife agency representatives, one manufacturer representative, one NGO and one urine production facility representative.

#### **Expectation of Working Group Members**

Working Group Members are expected to have a working knowledge of the ATA Deer Protection Program and be aware of any concerns about the Program from their area of expertise. This knowledge and awareness will be important during discussions about program weaknesses and the development of recommendations for program improvement.

Members will also be expected to participate in periodic meetings (2 per year) to perform a detailed review of the information available for the program participants. Called meetings may either be "in person" (January - at the ATA trade show) or "virtual" (August) and will likely require commitment of at least one full day (not including necessary travel) each year. Prior approved travel cost may be covered by the ATA as deemed appropriate and necessary for in-person participation.

## **Draft Meeting Outline**

While specific meeting outlines may vary, the periodic meetings will include:

### **Program Overview:**

This portion of the meeting will focus on the status of the Program and the comments and concerns that are being expressed about the Program. The outcome of this portion of the meeting will be recommendations (if any) regarding ways that the ATA Deer Protection Program can be improved.

### **Participant Review**

During this portion of the meeting, the ATA will present a description of the information available for each of the program participants. This information will include everything available that is required by the Program as well as information and non-sensitive documentation voluntarily supplied by the participant. The Working Group will have the opportunity to review this information and discuss anomalies or points of concern. The outcome of this portion of the meeting will be recommendations specific to each program concern or anomaly.

### **Working Group Recommendations**

While the ATA will give more weight to recommendations that represent a consensus of the Working Group, the recommendations of individual members are also important and will be noted (along with a summary of group discussion) in the meeting notes for consideration.

## **ATA Related Actions**

The ATA will assume responsibility for setting up all working group meetings (either in-person or virtual). This will include sharing of information necessary for the general program and participant specific discussions. The primary role of the ATA during the meetings will be to provide the available information, facilitate the discussions, respond to questions of the group and to record the discussions and recommendations of the group. The ATA will not lead the discussions or otherwise attempt to guide the recommendations of the group. A discussion facilitator will be identified from work group members to lead related discussions and prepare summary recommendations.

The ATA will facilitate discussions absent of DPP participant identity to avoid violations of confidentiality or sharing of proprietary information. Discussions will focus on the programmatic scale with individual circumstances being shared only as examples to better inform program implementation and challenges and will be void of participant identity.

The ATA will take the recommendations of the Working Group as advice to help strengthen the program and will report back to the Working Group on specific actions taken or intended within 60 days.