

DEVELOPMENT OF A BAIT FOR THE ORAL DELIVERY OF PHARMACEUTICALS TO WHITE-TAILED DEER

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Abstract: Immunosterilants and other pharmaceutical products for free-ranging white-tailed deer will soon become available, but the problem of inoculating large numbers of animals remains largely unaddressed. Although the oral delivery of substances in baits would be both inexpensive and relatively easy, no bait formulations are currently available. Here, we describe a liquid bait that is reliably attractive both to captive deer and to wild animals in suburban environments. The bait is comprised of apple juice, glycerin, salt, and either peanut butter or apple odor. We prefer this liquid formulation to solid baits because the incorporation of substances into the formulation is easier, problems with the ingestion of the bait by non-target animals is reduced, bait degradation by weathering is minimized, and the measurement of bait consumption is enhanced.