



Deer Breeder Program

Soft Release Request Form

The following information is provided to assist with the Soft Release Request process; please review all instructions thoroughly. **Authorization to use a soft release pen must be requested by submitting the appropriate documents indicated below at least 48 hours prior to the intended transfer date.** If approved, a Soft Release Authorization form will be issued; at that time a transfer permit may be activated to move breeder deer into the soft release pen. Be sure to keep copies of all required forms for your own records. Do not place deer in a soft release pen without first receiving official authorization from TPWD.

Please review Texas Administrative Code §65.610d **PRIOR** to requesting the use of the Soft Release pen ([http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readtac\\$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=5&ti=31&pt=2&ch=65&sch=T&rl=Y](http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=5&ti=31&pt=2&ch=65&sch=T&rl=Y)). Contact the Wildlife Permits Office at deer.breeder@tpwd.texas.gov with any questions.

General information concerning soft releases:

- Soft release pens are intended for short-term acclimation purposes ONLY.
- Breeder deer may not be placed into a soft release pen without prior authorization from TPWD.
- The source facility (i.e., the deer breeder providing the deer) must submit a completed **Soft Release Request Form** along with a **pen diagram** that indicates where the pen is located on the ranch, proximity to other pens (as applicable), the acreage and dimensions of the pen, and the location of food, shelter and water within the pen.
- If the destination/ release site does not have an existing facility ID assigned by TPWD, it must be registered online through TWIMS.
- The Soft Release Request Form must be completely filled out and signed and dated by both parties. Justification for the soft release MUST be included.
- There must be adequate food, water, and shelter in the soft-release pen.
- If approved, both parties (source and destination facility owners) will be notified, and a Soft Release Authorization document will be provided.
- A transfer permit must be activated prior to moving the deer into the soft-release pen.
- Soft releases are specific to each transfer and must be requested each time a soft-release pen is to be utilized.

Conditions for using the soft release pen:

- The deer may not be hunted while in a soft-release pen.
- The soft-release pen must be physically separate from any deer breeding facility, and the deer held may not be commingled with deer not included on the transfer permit.
- The deer may not be handled or returned to a deer breeding facility once placed in a soft-release pen.
- No breeder deer may enter a soft-release pen or be released from a deer breeding facility unless it has been tattooed with the appropriate alphanumeric unique identification number issued by and reported to TPWD.
- Deer may be detained in a soft-release pen no sooner than March 1, and **must be released from the soft-release pen no later than 10 days prior to an open hunting season**, and the gates must be left open for a minimum of 30 days following release with food and water removed.



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Soft Release Request Form

1. SOURCE OF DEER:

Permittee Name: _____ Breeder Serial No. TX Facility ID: _____

2. DESTINATION OF DEER:

Recipient Name: _____ Facility/Site Identification No.: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Ranch Name: _____ Ranch Acreage: _____

County: _____ Is Ranch High Fenced? (circle one) YES / NO

Nearest Town: _____ Direction from Town: _____ Miles from Town: _____ On Hwy: _____

3. SOFT RELEASE PEN INFORMATION:

Number of Pens: _____ Pen Dimensions: _____ Total Pen Acreage: _____

Total Deer to be Held in Soft Release Pen: _____ Total # Bucks: _____ Total # of Does: _____

Physical Address of Soft Release Pen: _____

GPS Coordinates of Pen (if available): _____

Soft Release Pen Fence Material: Tite Lock Woven Net Mesh Chain Link

Is the pen constructed of a material appropriate to retain deer? YES NO

Is the fence perimeter of the pen at least seven feet in height or greater? YES NO

Does the pen have adequate access to food, shelter and water? YES NO

Is the pen currently permitted under a wildlife permit (TTT, DMP, Breeder, etc)? YES NO

Justification for soft release: _____

4. CERTIFICATION:

I understand per Texas Administrative Code §65.610d that breeder deer lawfully purchased or obtained for stocking purposes may be temporarily held in captivity to acclimate the deer to habitat conditions at the release site when specifically authorized by the department. I have read and agree to the criteria on the preceding page for holding white-tailed deer in a soft release pen. I understand that the deer cannot be handled, resold, sold, bartered or exchanged and that they must be liberated on the approved release site within 10 days prior to an open deer season. In addition, I understand that completion of this form is not authorization for soft release and that this request must be approved by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Wildlife Permits Office prior to putting any deer into a soft release pen.

Permittee Signature (Source): _____ Date: _____

Landowner Signature (Destination): _____ Date: _____

THIS FORM AND A DIAGRAM OF THE PROPOSED PEN MAY BE EMAILED TO TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT DEER BREEDER OFFICE AT DEER.BREEDER@TPWD.TEXAS.GOV.