



## 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](mailto: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 by the deer breeder providing the deer.
- The Soft Release Request Form must be completely filled out and signed and dated by both parties. Justification for the soft release MUST be filled in.
- There must be food, water, and adequate shelter in the 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 they have been tattooed with the appropriate 4-character alphanumeric unique identification number issued by and reported to TPWD.
- If the breeder deer will be released from the soft release pen during an open deer-hunting season or within 10 days prior to any open deer-hunting season, the antlers must be removed (between the G3 and the pedicle) prior to entering the soft release pen.
- The deer **must be released from the soft release pen no later than 30 days after the effective date specified on the transfer permit**, and the gates must be left open for a minimum of 30 days following release with food and water removed.



# Deer Breeder Program

## 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 is 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 30 days of the effective date specified on the transfer permit. 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](mailto:DEER.BREEDER@TPWD.TEXAS.GOV).**