

EFFORT UNDER WAY TO BAN CANNED HUNTS IN MISSOURI



BALLOT INITIATIVE HAS BEEN FILED TO PROHIBIT “CONFINED BIG-GAME KILLING”

Captive hunting ranches, also known as “*canned hunts*,” are fenced-in areas where the deer to be hunted are penned up and confined - making it easier for hunters to come in and shoot them for trophies. Captive deer farms are breeding farms where deer are specifically raised for “*canned hunts*.”

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) has been attempting to regulate both captive deer farms and canned hunts due to the concerns that these facilities are causing the spread of chronic wasting disease to the wild deer population in the state. In response to these regulatory efforts, the Missouri deer breeders have successfully brought legal action to block the implementation of any regulations on their operations and have sought to deny MDC any authority whatsoever to regulate canned hunts and captive deer farms.

As a rejoinder to these legal challenges of the deer breeders, a ballot initiative has been filed with the Secretary of State’s office that, if passed, would enact into the state constitution a prohibition of “confined big game killing” starting in 2021. *If enough signatures are gathered to place this on the ballot, this initiative would be voted on by Missouri voters in 2018.*

