

Dear Mr. Gibbs,

Thank you for contacting the Wildlife Program regarding Deer Fibromas. What you are seeing is the deer's reaction to a virus spread by contact with another infected deer, or transmitted by mosquito. Though unsightly it does not affect the health of the deer. Once the deer builds an immunity to the virus, the lumps will dry up and fall off.

Looking at the picture there are a few other things effecting the deer. This is the worst time of year food wise for most animals. They are just coming winter, and the spring plant growth is just starting. Outside of the dead of winter, this time of year sees more deaths due to starvation.

Also it looks like the deer is at the end of what is known as Deer Slip Syndrome. DSS is caused by a parasite that infects the deer's lungs and lowers the deer's immune system. At that time lice, which are normal on most wild animals, are able to overwhelm the deer's natural defenses. The hair loss on the rump is caused by the infestation of the lice. Again once the deer's immune system gets a handle on the parasite problem, the hair will regrow.

I know the deer isn't looking too good. Though after surviving through winter, her chances are pretty good. There is no need to euthanize the deer. By the end of the summer, you will see a completely different animal.

If you have any further questions, comments or concerns please feel free to contact the Wildlife Program at 360-902-2515.

Sincerely,

Mike Day
Customer Service Specialist
Wildlife Program
(360) 902-2515