

# Field Assessment of the Effectiveness of DiazaCon™ on Reducing Gray Squirrel Reproduction and Population

**Kristina M. Dunn, Greg K. Yarrow, Wayne Chao and Brett Quattlebaum**

School of Agricultural, Forest and Environmental Sciences, Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina

**ABSTRACT:** The Eastern gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) (EGS) is a common wildlife species in urban and suburban communities within the eastern United States. Due to their relative adaptability and limited predation in urban environments, their numbers have increased in communities across their natural range resulting in an increase in human-squirrel conflicts. DiazaCon™ is an oral contraceptive that ultimately interferes with production of necessary reproductive steroids. The objectives of this multi-year study are to determine the efficacy of DiazaCon™ in reducing EGS reproduction and monitor potential effects of consumption of treated EGS primarily by Red-tailed Hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*) on the Clemson University campus.

**Key Words:** DiazaCon™, Eastern gray squirrel, oral contraceptive, reproduction

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