
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 23 APPROVED AS AMENDED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON WILDLIFE AND CAPTIVE WILDLIFE

SUBJECT MATTER: Annual Reporting on Chronic Wasting Disease Epidemiological Data

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) has been recognized in wild cervids since the 1980's. Availability of complete epidemiological information is critical for evaluating the effectiveness of science-based disease control programs. Access to pertinent information from epidemiological investigations across the country in wild populations is imperative to developing success strategies for managing the disease.

More comprehensive information is needed on CWD epidemiology in the affected wild populations. Analysis of data from CWD affected populations across the country will improve risk assessment. Comprehensive epidemiological data evaluation may potentially identify factors contributing to the detection of CWD, enhance mitigation strategies to reduce the likelihood of CWD in new populations, and facilitate its earliest detection when it is present.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services and other appropriate federal and state agencies to work cooperatively to assemble, analyze, summarize, and make available annually to the Committee on Wildlife and Captive Wildlife at the USAHA meeting all pertinent information from epidemiological investigations of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in cervid populations (including wild, free-ranging, and captive). Specific information requested may include:

1. Compiled CWD testing data from each State to include:
 - a) Overall State testing numbers of each susceptible species tested;
 - b) Number of CWD positive tests found annually in each State;
 - c) Overall State testing in wild populations;
 - d) Prevalence of CWD in positive populations;
 - e) Population totals for each susceptible species of wild herds in each State;
 - f) Demography of positive and negative animals in infected herds;
 - g) Results from all tissues that were tested;

- h) Duration of monitoring prior to detection of the first case - including numbers of animals in the herd, numbers tested, and numbers not tested;
 - i) Results of trace-forward and trace-back investigations; and
 - j) All other pertinent data that will enhance risk assessment of CWD in cervids and identification of effective mitigation measures.
2. Compiled data should also be posted on the USDA website.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the U.S. Animal Health Association (USAHA) and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS will continue to share pertinent information from epidemiological investigations of chronic wasting disease detected in farmed cervid herds to the Committee on Wildlife and Captive Wildlife at the annual USAHA meeting. We will also make this same information available on the USDA website. However, VS does not plan to initiate data collection activities to obtain the requested information for wild, free-ranging population through State wildlife agencies.