

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION (USAHA) - 2007

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 4 and 12 Combined APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON CAPTIVE WILDLIFE AND
ALTERNATIVE LIVESTOCK

COMMITTEE ON WILDLIFE DISEASES

SUBJECT MATTER: ADDITION OF RETROPHARYNGEAL LYMPH
NODES AS AN ACCEPTABLE TISSUE, ALONG
WITH THE OBEX, IN STATE CWD MONITORING
PROGRAMS.

DATES: RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Research has indicated that in some cases the retropharyngeal lymph nodes may be positive on immunohistochemistry even before the obex.

If the obex is not suitable for testing, a retropharyngeal lymph node may assist in helping to support the test status of an individual animal being tested and the herd of origin.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) approve retropharyngeal lymph nodes as an acceptable Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) monitoring tissue for *Odocoileus spp.* The USAHA also requests the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials add retropharyngeal lymph nodes in all State CWD monitoring programs.

RESPONSE

National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials

Members of NASAHO have been made aware of this resolution. Recognizing CWD control is an individual state program at this time, those NASAHO members who administer CWD programs are encouraged by NASAHO membership to include

Retropharyngeal Lymph Node exams in CWD control programs for deer species (*odocoileus*).

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services recognizes the United States Animal Health Association's concerns and appreciates the opportunity to respond. The National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) supports chronic wasting disease (CWD) diagnostics. We agree that retropharyngeal lymph nodes may be used in monitoring for CWD in *Odocoileus spp.* We additionally recommend the continued collection of obex samples; obex should not be eliminated from the collection protocol.