



UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

2014 RESOLUTION

118TH ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 16-22, 2014 ~ KANSAS CITY, MO

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 28 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: **COMMITTEE ON CAPTIVE WILDLIFE AND ALTERNATIVE LIVESTOCK**

SUBJECT MATTER: **Epidemiology of Chronic Wasting Disease in Farmed Cervids**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) has been recognized in wild cervids since the 1980s and in farmed cervid herds in the United States since 1997. Since 2012, CWD has been detected in herds monitored longer than the five years required by the United States Department of Agriculture's National Herd Certification Program.

Availability of complete epidemiological information is critical for evaluating the effectiveness of science-based disease control programs; however, very little information is available on CWD epidemiology in the 65 affected farmed cervid herds. Analysis of data from herds with CWD will improve risk assessment; and potentially identify factors contributing to the detection of CWD in herds monitored longer than five years, enhance mitigation strategies to reduce the likelihood of CWD in farmed cervids, and facilitate its earliest detection when it is present.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services to work cooperatively with the states to assemble, analyze, summarize, and make available to the Committee on Captive Wildlife and Alternative Livestock at the USAHA meeting in 2015, all pertinent information from epidemiological investigations of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in farmed and free-ranging cervid herds. Specific information requested includes but is not limited to: prevalence of CWD in positive herds; demography of positive and negative animals in infected herds; results from all tissues that were tested; proximity of affected herd to wild and/or farmed cervid herds with CWD; duration of monitoring prior to detection of the first case, including numbers of animals in the herd, numbers tested and numbers not tested; results of trace-forward and trace-back investigations; and all other pertinent data that will enhance risk assessment of CWD in farmed cervids and identification of effective mitigation measures.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association and appreciates the opportunity to respond.

VS acknowledges the interest of the committee in reviewing the historical epidemiological information from CWD-positive farmed cervid herds. A retrospective study may improve future CWD risk assessments and disease mitigation efforts. However, in order to succeed in this endeavor, VS will need substantial cooperation from the States where the detailed historical data on CWD-positive farmed cervid herds have been maintained. VS will develop a data collection process this spring to request the pertinent data from States where at least one CWD-positive herd has been found. All data received will be summarized and a preliminary report provided to the Committee on Captive Wildlife and Alternative Livestock in the fall of 2015.