



# UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

115<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
September 29- October 5, 2011  
Buffalo, New York

---

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 14 APPROVED**

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

**SUBJECT MATTER:** CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE FUNDING FOR CAPTIVE CERVIDS

---

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The proposed rule for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Herd Certification and Interstate Movement of Captive Cervids in farmed cervidae requires that all farmed cervidae greater than 12 months of age that die or are slaughtered must be tested for CWD. Farmed cervidae producers across the nation have complied with testing requirements, in large part because laboratory costs for CWD testing have traditionally been paid with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) funds.

The CWD testing protocol that is recommended for farmed cervidae is the immunohistochemistry (IHC) test using formalin fixed samples of brain stem and retropharyngeal lymph node from each animal. It is the most sensitive and specific test for detecting CWD. The test is expensive and costs at least \$25.00 per slide to perform at USDA approved laboratories.

There is an urgency to maintain USDA funding to cover the costs of CWD testing for farmed cervidae. If USDA funding for CWD tests ends and farmed cervidae producers are forced to cover the cost of such tests, there is a real possibility that producer compliance with CWD testing requirements will decrease. Without producer cooperation, the national CWD control program for farmed cervidae could collapse.

## **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services to continue to provide funding to cover the laboratory costs of testing farmed cervidae for Chronic Wasting Disease by immunohistochemistry at all approved laboratories.

## **INTERIM RESPONSE:**

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



In fiscal year 2012, the congressional appropriation for the chronic wasting disease (CWD) program was reduced by \$13.9 million, to approximately \$1.9 million. Consequently, VS no longer has funds to cover testing costs for farmed cervids. Laboratories and industry were informed that this funding ended on December 31, 2011; all such costs must now be borne by the producers. VS will continue to cover only confirmatory testing on any presumptive CWD positive samples from farmed and wild cervidae at the National Veterinary Services Laboratories.

VS will direct remaining program funds to the publication of the CWD final rule and the administrative costs associated with implementation of the national CWD herd certification program.