



---

**RESOLUTION NUMBER:** 10                      **APPROVED**

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

**SUBJECT MATTER:**                      **Chronic Wasting Disease Testing Protocol for Wild Cervidae**

---

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Over the last 15 years the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) and state regulatory officials have worked to prevent and control the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).

Producers farming CWD susceptible species can only move their animals interstate if they are in compliance with the CWD program set forth in 9 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 55 and 81 that states animals must originate from herds with five years of CWD monitored status.

State Wildlife agencies that plan and execute elk restoration projects from one state to another are moving CWD susceptible species interstate without following minimum interstate movement requirements set for farmed cervidae. Instead, CFR 81.3 states the source population be considered "low risk" by the receiving state and USDA-APHIS.

To date, over two dozen herds of wild elk have been captured and transported to other states across the nation without following the Chronic Wasting Disease protocol set forth in the CWD program for farmed cervidae.

The movement of CWD susceptible cervid species with unknown CWD status by state wildlife agencies can undermine the success of CWD control programs that have been in place in many states for more than a decade. CWD has been found in 23 states. Eight of the 23 states have detected CWD in the free-ranging deer populations but not in the farmed cervid herds.

**RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services to work with stakeholders to develop a guidance document on determining chronic wasting disease risk levels of source herds for interstate cervid restoration projects.

**INTERIM RESPONSE:**

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

VS posted information about the requirements and approval process for the interstate movement of wild caught cervids on the APHIS Web site in April 2015 to make this process more transparent to stakeholders. In response to this resolution, VS is drafting a guidance document that will clarify the process for approval; standardize surveillance data to be submitted; and define factors that will be used to determine risk for interstate movement of wild caught cervids. Prior to its finalization, we expect to share

our draft guidance document for review and comment with State Animal Health Officials and Wildlife Officials in States that have conducted these movements in the recent past.