



UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

2016 Resolution

120th Annual Meeting

October 13-19, 2016 ~ Greensboro, NC

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 30

APPROVED

SOURCE:

**COMMITTEE ON CAPTIVE WILDLIFE AND
ALTERNATIVE LIVESTOCK**

SUBJECT MATTER:

Live Animal Testing for Chronic Wasting Disease

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Detection of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in live animals is an important component of CWD Prevention and Control Programs.

With the funding decrease for CWD indemnification, the need for a successful live animal test option, with a high rate of sensitivity and specificity, is critical in both a trace-forward / trace-back scenario, as well as in herd management plans.

There have been numerous studies evaluating the sensitivity and specificity of tonsillar biopsies in cervids. Similar to scrapie, PrP(CWD) in deer accumulates in the retropharyngeal lymph nodes and tonsillar follicles before central nervous system involvement or clinical symptoms (Sigurdson et al., 1999; Spraker et al., 2002b; O'Rourke et al., 2003). Antemortem testing of these tissues by immunohistochemistry provides a reliable preclinical diagnosis in deer (Wild et al., 2002; Wolfe et al., 2002).

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services to expedite evaluation and approval of tonsillar biopsies into the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Program Standards, providing for rapid implementation and deployment as a viable, accurate, and reliable means of live animal testing for CWD in cervids.