



UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

2016 Resolution

120th Annual Meeting

October 13-19, 2016 ~ Greensboro, NC

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 32

APPROVED

SOURCE:

COMMITTEE ON CAPTIVE WILDLIFE & 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 control and prevent the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).

Producers raising CWD susceptible species can only move their animals interstate if they are in compliance with the CWD program set forth in Title 9 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 55 & 81 that state animals must originate from herds with at least 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 for farmed cervidae. Instead, Title 9 CFR Part 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 that follow no CWD protocol set forth in the CWD Program Standards.

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 15 years. 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.

The USAHA Committee on Wildlife Diseases approved a resolution at the 2015 annual conference that requested USDA Veterinary Services to develop a guidance document for captive deer, elk, or moose captured from a wild population for interstate movement and release.

APHIS has finalized and released VS Guidance Document 8000.1 “Surveillance and Testing Requirements for Interstate Transport of Wild Caught Cervids” in October 2016 but the requirement of an ante-mortem test, such as the rectal biopsy, is only optional.

Exact language is as follows:

“Optionally, a whole-herd rectal biopsy or other mutually agreed-on method of antemortem CWD test with concurrent genotyping may be performed on the assembled herd. Laboratory results must be “not detected” on all animals. Animals with untestable or incorrect location samples (i.e., samples that are autolyzed or of the wrong tissue type) may be retested.”

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) to amend the language in VS Guidance Document 8000.1 “Surveillance and Testing Requirements for Interstate Transport of Wild Caught Cervids”, the Chronic Wasting Disease Program Standards, and Title 9 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 81.3, *(b) Animals captured for interstate movement and release*, to indicate that any wild cervid of a Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) susceptible species captured and transported interstate for release shall require:

- 1) A rectal biopsy or other mutually agreed-on method of antemortem CWD test with concurrent genotyping performed on the assembled herd; and
- 2) Documentation of a sampling scheme sufficient to detect CWD at 1 percent prevalence with 95 percent confidence in wild cervids within the defined source population from which the animals are being moved and conducted within the most recent three-year period. Such sampling scheme shall include both passive (hunter harvest and found dead) and targeted surveillance for CWD.