UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION
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RESOLUTION NUMBER: **16** **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 has increased for additional diagnostic tools to monitor CWD positive herds and epidemiologically linked herds that may be maintained in quarantine rather than depopulated. The use of recto-anal mucosa associated lymphoid tissue (RAMALT) has been approved as a live animal test for Scrapie. There have been numerous studies evaluating the sensitivity and specificity of RAMALT in cervids.

There are several additional advantages to RAMALT sampling. There is a large amount of suitable tissue to sample and multiple sites can be sampled allowing repeat sampling over time.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association requests that the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services evaluate live animal tests, including the rectal biopsy (RAMALT), as a live animal test for Chronic Wasting Disease.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services appreciates your interest in live animal tests for chronic wasting disease (CWD).

APHIS is completing analysis of a multi-year study evaluating recto-anal mucosa associated lymphoid tissue (RAMALT) biopsy testing as a diagnostic tool for CWD detection in captive white-tailed deer. This is a collaborative study with APHIS Wildlife Services, Agricultural Research Service, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Colorado State University, and others to evaluate the existing collective data on white-tailed deer relative to diagnostic testing and interpretation of the immunohistochemistry test for CWD

on rectal biopsy testing in the United States and Canada. Currently, there is insufficient data available to evaluate this technique on other captive Cervidae.

After this analysis is completed, APHIS will determine the applicability of RAMALT for use in a CWD Herd Certification Program (HCP). We plan to complete this determination by September 30, 2012. APHIS also will continue to evaluate other live animal tests for CWD, as they are developed, to assess appropriate use in a CWD HCP.