

**RESOLUTION NUMBER:**           **20**           **APPROVED**

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

**SUBJECT MATTER:**           **CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE CONTROL**

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

It has been stated by the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services that (1) the goal of the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) program in the United States has now changed from eradication to controlling its spread, (2) there is no longer federal funding available to pay for CWD testing or to pay indemnity for CWD infected or exposed animals, and (3) depopulation of infected herds will no longer be required or expected.

With this major change in objectives, it is critical that we change the way we implement the CWD program in the United States. We now need a program that minimizes the risk of spreading CWD in farmed and wild cervidae without putting farmed cervidae producers out of business if their herds become CWD infected or exposed. We need a CWD control program that includes plans for how to (1) handle infected or exposed herds, (2) clean up infected herds without depopulation, and (3) provide outlets so producers can continue to sell velvet antler and live animals to slaughter or specified terminal facilities.

**RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services and state animal health regulatory officials to develop protocols for the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) control program that mitigate the risk of the spread of CWD and allow producers with CWD infected or exposed herds to continue operations under quarantine and which allow (1) addition of cervidae from CWD certified herds, (2) participation in herd plans such as test and removal, and (3) movement of velvet antler and live animals to slaughter or other approved terminal facilities.

**INTERIM RESPONSE:**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association and appreciates the opportunity to respond. In conjunction with the publication of the chronic wasting disease (CWD) final rule in June 2012, VS prepared a set of program standards governing the voluntary national herd certification program. The standards provide further explanation and guidance on how participating States and cervid owners can meet the program requirements to certify herds as low risk for CWD.

The standards are divided into two parts. Part A covers herd certification program participation requirements; registration, identification, and recordkeeping; surveillance and sampling; and diagnostics and testing. It also describes the requirements for interstate movement of cervids in accordance with the rule. Part B provides guidance to States for responding to findings of CWD in farmed cervids, in accordance with the national CWD herd certification program. This section also provides suggested best management practices that may be used by States and by herd owners to investigate and manage CWD-affected herds, including development of herd plans and factors affecting continuity of business. VS will continue to serve in an advisory capacity to assist States and herd owners with these mitigation efforts.

VS has convened a working group to review the program standards (see Resolution 24).