



# UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

**2012 Resolution**

116<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

October 18-24, 2012 ~ Greensboro, NC

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**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 21**

**APPROVED AS AMENDED**

**SOURCE:**

**COMMITTEE ON CAPTIVE WILDLIFE AND ALTERNATIVE LIVESTOCK**

**SUBJECT MATTER:**

**FUNDING FOR CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE TESTING**

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## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The requirements for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) herd certification (9 CFR 55) and for interstate movement of farmed cervidae (9 CFR 81) specify that all farmed cervidae greater than 12 months of age that die or are slaughtered must be tested for CWD.

The CWD testing protocol that is recommended for farmed cervidae is the immunohistochemistry test using formalin fixed samples of brain stem or a retropharyngeal lymph node. The test on either of these tissues is highly sensitive and specific for detecting the presence of CWD prion. The test costs at least \$25.00 per slide to perform at United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) approved laboratories.

In the past, USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services has provided funding to pay for CWD testing of wild and farmed cervids in the United States. Federal funding for this purpose is no longer available and farmed cervidae producers in most states must pay the entire cost for required CWD tests. Without federal funding for CWD testing, producer compliance with program requirements is likely to decrease. Without producer support, the program to control the spread of CWD in the United States may become less effective.

Funding for CWD testing was requested and approved in United States Animal Health Association 2011 resolution number 14.

## **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association urges Congress to appropriate federal funding to pay the laboratory costs of testing farmed and wild cervidae for Chronic Wasting Disease.