

Interstate Transportation Requirements for Wild Caught Cervids

The Code of Federal Regulations defines captive cervids as: *“All species of deer, elk, moose, and all other members of the family Cervidae raised or maintained in captivity for the production of meat and other agricultural products, for sport, or for exhibition, including time such animals are moved interstate; or any wild cervid that is moved interstate, during the period of time from capture until release into the wild. A captive cervid that escapes will continue to be considered a captive cervid as long as it bears an official eartag or other identification approved by the Administrator as unique and traceable with which to trace the animal back to its herd of origin.”* This definition clearly identifies that any wild cervid that has been captured to be classified as a “captive cervid” and fall under the regulations pertaining to all other captive cervids.

The testing requirements for Tuberculosis are spelled out in 9CFR section 77. If these requirements cannot be met (as in a whole herd test cannot be done) paragraph 77.38, the States may request a waiver from APHIS as stated here: **“§77.38 Interstate movement from herds that are not accredited, qualified, or monitored.** *The Administrator may, with the concurrence of the cooperating State animal health officials of the State of destination, and upon request in specific cases, permit the movement of captive cervids not otherwise provided for in this part which have not been classified as reactors and are not otherwise known to be affected with tuberculosis, under such conditions as the Administrator may prescribe in each specific case to prevent the spread of tuberculosis. The Administrator shall promptly notify the appropriate cooperating State animal health officials of the State of destination of any such action.”*

Brucellosis testing requirements are dependent on the State receiving the imported cervids. Click on this link to see the recommended [TB and brucellosis testing protocol for interstate movement of captured wild cervids.](#)

For the purposes of CWD there are currently no live animal tests to clear the animals as negative for CWD. The history of adequate surveillance of the wild cervids in the large area of capture must be documented to demonstrate the lack of any identification of CWD in the area. Adequate surveillance may be demonstrated by testing wild cervids found dead, hunter harvest surveys, and captive cervid surveillance.

In accordance with Part 9 CFR 81.3 (b), if cervids are captured from a free-ranging wild population for interstate movement and release, each animal must have two forms of animal identification, one of which is official animal identification, and the certificate (CVI) issued in accordance with Part 81.4 that accompanies the animal must state that the source population has been documented to be low risk for CWD based on a CWD surveillance program in wild cervid populations that is approved by the State Government of the receiving State and by APHIS.

States interested in initiating an interstate movement of wild cervids should submit to their respective APHIS Veterinary Services Area Office and the receiving State authorities a summary statement with supporting documents describing the CWD surveillance program for review and approval. The District Office Assistant District Director will forward these documents to the Cervid Health program staff for review. These documents should be received by APHIS and receiving State at least 30 days prior to intended movement to allow sufficient time for evaluation.

The State of origin's summary statement should include the following information:

- A. Geographic region (s) such as counties, game management units, etc. where wild cervids (deer, elk, or moose) will be sourced for capture.
 1. Population density of wild cervids within those locations with emphasis on the cervid species to be translocated).
 2. Any previous or historic wild cervid translocations within this geographic region (origin, what, when, where)
 3. CWD surveillance of wild cervids within this geographic region conducted per year
 4. Location of any farmed/captive cervid operations (herd type/purpose and herd size)
 5. Status of farmed/captive operations within the geographic region of the source State
 - a. Participation in Approved State CWD HCP or CWD monitoring program
 - b. Herds with less than 5 years status
 6. Any CWD positive findings in farmed/captive or wild cervids in the State with emphasis on the geographic region of the source population for translocation.
- B. Involvement of an adjacent State or Tribal area within geographic region outlined above (if available):
 1. Population density of wild cervids by county, game management units, etc.
 2. Any previous or historic wild cervid translocations in that geographic region (origin, what, when, where).
 3. CWD surveillance of wild cervids within that geographic region conducted per year.
 4. Location of farmed /captive cervids operations, herd type/purpose and herd size.
 5. Status of farmed/captive cervid operations within geographic borderline of the adjacent State.
 - a. Participation in Approved State CWD HCP or CWD monitoring program
 - b. Herds with less than 5 years status
 6. Any CWD positive findings in farmed/captive or wild cervids in those adjacent geographic regions.
- C. A narrative description of the translocation project which should include cervid type, number of animals, capture site(s), mitigation factors, animal health testing protocols prior to movement and post release, State(s) of destination.