

## **Exhibition Guidelines for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)-Susceptible Cervids**

### **1. Purpose and Background**

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy. This progressive and fatal brain disease affects CWD-susceptible cervids. APHIS identifies a CWD-susceptible cervid as a cervid that, based on scientific evidence, is naturally or experimentally infected with CWD through intranasal and/or oral routes. Susceptible species include but are not limited to animals in the genera *Odocoileus*, *Cervus*, and *Alces* and their hybrids; i.e. deer, elk, and moose. Biosecurity methods used to mitigate the risk of CWD transmission include preventing contact with CWD-susceptible cervids and eliminating potential environmental exposure.

Owners and breeders exhibit cervid species at events and venues across the country, often requiring interstate movement. The owner may exhibit animals himself or herself or may lease the animals and/or the premises for exhibition. This document describes interstate movement procedures, facility and biosecurity procedures, and the cervid exhibition approval process.

Farmed or captive cervids enrolled and having achieved certified status in the CWD Herd Certification Program (HCP) may move out of state for exhibition with prior approval from the State animal health official (SAHO). The SAHO may allow CWD-susceptible farmed cervids, not enrolled in the CWD HCP, through interstate movement for show and exhibition case-by-case if the exhibitor has adequate surveillance and mitigation procedures to prevent dissemination of CWD and the SAHO issues a movement permit when required.

This guidance document represents the Agency's position on this topic. It does not create or confer any rights for or on any person and does not bind the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) or the public. The information it contains may be made available to the public. While this document provides guidance for users outside VS, VS employees may not deviate from the directions provided herein without appropriate justification and supervisory concurrence.

### **2. Document Status**

Review date: December 3, 2021.

### **3. Reason for Reissuance**

This is a new document.

### **4. Authority and References**

Authorities (*Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) and U.S. Code (U.S.C.)):

[9 CFR 55.22, Control of Chronic Wasting Disease](#)

[9 CFR 81.3, Chronic Wasting Disease General Restrictions](#)

[9 CFR 86.1, et. seq., Animal Disease Traceability](#)

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### **5. Audience**

VS employees, other Federal and State agencies, and members of the public.

### **6. Guidance**

- A. Each animal in the shipment must have at least two forms of unique identification attached, one of which must be an official animal identification with a nationally unique identification number consistent with title 9, *Code of Federal Regulations* (9 CFR) part 86.
- B. An accredited veterinarian must issue a certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI) for interstate movement. The CVI must contain the following information:
  - 1) All identification numbers of each animal in the shipment.
  - 2) Total number of animals covered by the certificate.
  - 3) Species, age, and sex of the animals.
  - 4) Purpose for which the animals are to be moved.
  - 5) Consignor and herd of origin with complete addresses.
  - 6) Consignee and point of destination with complete addresses.
  - 7) Tests and lab results, when required.
  - 8) A statement by the issuing accredited veterinarian experienced in cervid health, or a State or Federal veterinarian, that “the animals were not exhibiting clinical signs associated with CWD at the time of examination.”
- C. Facility Biosecurity Separation Protocols
  - 1) House exhibition cervids in a SAHO-approved facility. Such facilities include mobile equipment, stables, and barns. All outdoor housing facilities (i.e., facilities not entirely indoors) should be enclosed by a perimeter fence high enough to keep animals and unauthorized persons out. The facility should be strong and durable enough for the animals involved, and be maintained in good repair to contain the animals and protect them from injury. The facility should be designed and maintained to prevent other CWD-susceptible animals from approaching.
  - 2) Do not exhibit parade animals with CWD-susceptible cervids from different herds regardless of herd status.
  - 3) Do not exhibit stationary or fixed location animals with CWD-susceptible cervids from different herds regardless of herd status.
  - 4) House, exhibit, and show display animals at all times in a manner that prevents direct contact with other CWD-susceptible cervids.
  - 5) Do not house, exhibit, or show display animals in pastures or natural environments where CWD-susceptible cervids may have direct contact with other CWD-susceptible cervids.

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- 6) Clean and disinfect all facilities, walkways, and equipment used in the facility at the end of the exhibition. Use an agent effective to reduce prion levels and activity such as 2 percent available chlorine solution (20,000 ppm available chlorine).
- 7) Acquire and store supplies of food, water, bedding material, and other essential items in a manner that prevents contact with other animals.
- 8) Clean and disinfect feeding, grooming, and cleaning equipment before arriving in the destination State. Dispose of cleaning, grooming, and feeding equipment not returning to the State of origin in a sanitary landfill. The SAHO may assign regulatory personnel to observe and confirm equipment destruction.
- 9) Remove and dispose of animal and food wastes, used bedding, dead animals, trash, and debris to minimize vermin infestation, odors, and disease hazards. Make sure the disposal facilities and any disposal of animal and food wastes, bedding, trash, and debris comply with applicable Federal, State, and local laws and the SAHO's direction.
- 10) Double-bag all organic material, including bedding, urine, and feces, in trash bags to prevent punctures.
- 11) The SAHO may stipulate public visitation policies or exhibition personnel policies as deemed necessary to maintain biosecurity.

### **D. Approval of Destination Entry and Origin Re-entry**

- 1) Each consignor/exhibitor should apply in advance for the destination State SAHO's import approval. The SAHO approves the facility before the exhibition cervids enter. In many cases, the SAHO issues a permit if he or she approves the shipment. The SAHO may stipulate additional requirements or limitations for cervid exhibition.
- 2) Each consignor/exhibitor must confirm, prior to returning animals to the State of origin, that the origin SAHO will approve re-entry of the animals.

### **E. Duration of Exhibition**

The SAHO approves exhibitions for no more than 90 days from the date of entry into the exhibit destination State.

### **F. Contingency Plans**

The animal owner/consignor/exhibitor must develop written contingency plans for sick, injured, or dead animals and animals that escape. The SAHO reviews and approves the contingency plans, which include:

- 1) Immediate notification to the SAHO if animals are sick, injured, die, or escape.

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- 2) Contact information for the licensed veterinarian responsible for the animals' onsite care.
- 3) The owner/exhibitor's emergency contact information.
- 4) Sampling and testing of any animals that die or are euthanized within 24 hours. Submit to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) for CWD testing.
- 5) Capture capabilities and contingency plan for animals that escape.

**7. Inquiries**

Please direct any inquiries to:

National Cervid Tuberculosis Disease Specialist

USDA APHIS Veterinary Services

Sheep, Goat, Cervid, and Equine Health Center – Cervid Health Program

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[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/animal\\_diseases/tuberculosis/](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_diseases/tuberculosis/)