



Resolution 2002-02-06

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE PREVENTION

WHEREAS, chronic wasting disease is a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy that poses a significant risk to the health of both free-ranging and captive deer and elk; and

WHEREAS, chronic wasting disease has the potential to adversely impact wildlife populations, limit interest in recreational and commercial use of deer and elk, and negatively impact rural economies; and

WHEREAS, there is evidence suggesting that chronic wasting disease may have spread between captive elk and free-ranging cervids at some locations; and

WHEREAS, healthy-appearing infected cervids may transmit the causative agent during the prolonged incubation period and before showing signs of chronic wasting disease; and

WHEREAS, at this time there is no treatment, vaccine, or practical live animal test for chronic wasting disease; and

WHEREAS, the intrastate/provincial, interstate, or international movement of live captive elk is the documented source of chronic wasting disease infections in numerous captive elk herds in the United States and Canada; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture is proposing a program to eliminate chronic wasting disease from captive deer and elk and this program requires five years of comprehensive monitoring before a captive deer or elk herd may be regarded as free of the disease.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies urges the prevention of chronic wasting disease introduction by prohibiting importation of live captive cervids; or reduce the risk of introduction by permitting importation of live captive cervids only from herds regarded as free of the disease after monitoring for at least five years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies urges its member agencies and other appropriate animal health and agriculture agencies to promulgate and strongly enforce regulations to this effect.