

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

Department of Environmental Conservation
Environmental Health – Palmer Office
Office of the State Veterinarian
550 S. Alaska Street, Suite 6
Palmer AK 99645

TO: Public Notice: Attn: ADF&G, USDA, Customs, Airlines, veterinarians, hunters, taxidermists
DATE: January 12, 2005
FROM: Office of the State Veterinarian PHONE NO: (907) 745-3236

SUBJECT: Chronic Wasting Disease

Preventing the transmission of CWD into Alaska is of paramount importance to protect the agricultural and wildlife resources of the state. A moratorium on the importation of live cervids into Alaska has been in place since April of 2003 to prevent the introduction of infected animals into the state. Recent scientific studies that have shown another method of transmission for CWD is possible. The carcass of a CWD infected animal is capable of spreading the disease. Big game hunting is a popular sport in Alaska and the continental United States. Many hunters harvest an animal and transport the edible meat and certain parts of the carcass as a trophy back to their home state. Since CWD is endemic in several areas in the United States and has been detected in some foreign countries the following restrictions on the importation of meat or carcass parts of cervidae or other species susceptible to CWD are to be initiated immediately:

The importation of whole carcasses and certain carcass parts from cervidae (including: mule deer, white-tailed deer, black-tailed deer, and elk) and other CWD susceptible species into the State of Alaska is banned.

Approved Importation of carcass parts from such species is restricted to:

De-boned meat (cut and wrapped commercially or privately)
Quarters or other meat portions with no portion of the spinal column (including dorsal root ganglion) or head attached
Processed meat (cut and wrapped commercially or privately)
Hides with no head attached
Clean and disinfected skull plates
Antlers with no meat or tissue attached
Clean and disinfected whole skull (European mount), no meat or nervous tissue (brain, cranial nerves) attached
Teeth (Upper canine teeth-buglers, whistlers or ivories)
Taxidermy mounts or trophies

A person that is notified that a carcass imported into Alaska tested positive for CWD shall report these findings within a 7 day period to the Office of the State Veterinarian and the Department of Fish and Game Veterinarian.