



TEXAS ANIMAL HEALTH COMMISSION

Ernie Morales
Chairman

Dee B. Ellis, D.V.M., M.P.A.
Executive Director

RESOLUTION REGARDING CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE REQUIREMENTS FOR ELK MOVING WITHIN THE STATE OF TEXAS

WHEREAS, Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) of elk and deer and it is recognized as communicable by the veterinary profession and is considered to be a serious threat to the Texas exotic wildlife industry and native Texas deer. There is currently no validated live animal test to determine the presence of the disease in living animals. The Commission works to prevent, control, and eradicate disease in Texas exotic livestock, which include cervids and elk, and;

WHEREAS, in order to protect the exotic wildlife industry the Commission has rules for a voluntary CWD Herd Monitoring program where participants can achieve an annual status based on monitoring the animals, testing mortalities and conducting annual inventory. The program is established on nationally accepted standards and was implemented in 1999. The requirements for the program are found in Title 4 of the Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 40 and entitled "Chronic Wasting Disease", and;

WHEREAS, all breeders of white tail deer, through the direction of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), participate in a CWD Monitoring program through either TPWD or the Commission. Failure to perform adequate surveillance allows any disease to circulate unnoticed among animal host and spread the disease creating a greater disease problem and a far more difficult response task, and;

WHEREAS, the Commission created a program to require participation of elk in a surveillance program whenever a person transports elk in the state. For free ranging elk to authorize movement of between one (1) to ten (10) elk, there shall be one (1) valid not-detected CWD test result filed prior to movement. For captive elk to authorize movement of between one (1) to five (5) elk, prior to movement, there shall be one (1) valid not-detected CWD test result filed prior to movement, and;

WHEREAS, the rule also provides for two exemptions to the test requirement prior to movement. The first exemption is for captive elk that enroll, during the first year of the program, with the Commission in a monitored herd program in accordance with the requirements of Section 40.3 of this Chapter and prior to January 1, 2011, and;

WHEREAS, the Commission has had only four elk herds enroll during 2010, and;

Randy C. Brown
Reta K. Dyess
William Edmiston, Jr., D.V.M.
Ken Jordan
Thomas G. Kezar
Coleman H. Locke

COMMISSIONERS:

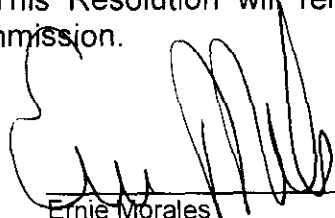
Charles E. "Chuck" Real
Ralph Simmons
Mike Vickers, D.V.M.
Mark A. Wheelis
Beau White
R. W. "Dick" Winters, Jr.

WHEREAS, the Cervid Disease Task Force, comprised of representatives of the various affected industry associations and governmental entities, met on November 30, 2010, to discuss how to obtain greater participation of the elk industry in the CWD Herd Monitoring program. They recommended that producers be allowed another year to be authorized to move by enrolling in the CWD Herd Monitoring program, and;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Commission will continue to hold in abeyance enforcement of Section 40.5(b) of the Texas Administrative Code, for movement of elk within the state for those producers that properly enroll their elk herds in the Commission's CWD Monitored Herd program no later than January 1, 2012.

FURTHERMORE, the Commission strongly urges Texas elk producers to participate in the Commission's surveillance program by enrolling.

Section 40.5(b) of the Texas Administrative Code is held in abeyance as discussed herein until January 1, 2012. This Resolution will remain in effect until modified, amended or rescinded by the Commission.



Ernie Morales
Chairman

Date: 2-22-11