

Yukon Chronic Wasting Disease Voluntary Herd Certification Program

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Part A: OVERVIEW

The objective of the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Voluntary Herd Certification Program is to provide owners with the opportunity to have their herds distinguished with respect to CWD. Membership in the certification program provides assurances to potential purchasers of animals that a purchase from a herd with the same level has the same risk of being infected with CWD. The level of assurance of CWD freedom depends on the length of time the herd has been enrolled in the program. Any cervid owner with a valid game farm licence who agrees to comply with the outlined provisions of the CWD Voluntary Herd Certification Program may enroll.

As there is no test to diagnose CWD in live animals, CWD status is determined on a herd basis by testing every cervid that dies, the absence of clinical signs, and the lack of

exposure to CWD over a designated period of time.

There are six levels in the certification program, from the entry level, Level E, to the highest level, certified. A minimum of five years is necessary for an enrolled herd to reach the certified level.

The following program has been developed specifically for use by cervid producers in the Yukon Territory. The Yukon also has a Mandatory Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance Program in effect as of January 1, 2003. The Mandatory CWD Surveillance Program replaces the Voluntary CWD Surveillance Program that was implemented January 1, 2001.

Part B: ROLES and RESPONSIBILITIES (see Appendix D)

The National Administrator is the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).

The Regional Administrator is the Yukon Agriculture Branch.

The Status Assessor is the Director of the Yukon Agriculture Branch.

Program Delivery is carried out by veterinarians accredited by the CFIA for that purpose and by Yukon Agriculture Branch staff.

A recognized laboratory is a laboratory that participates with the National TSE Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Network and meets the guidelines set by the CFIA laboratory Directorate for testing cervids for CWD.

Owners are persons who have responsibility for the care and handling of all cervids on a premise. Individuals who own or lease cervids but do not have responsibility for all cervids on the premises cannot apply for herd enrollment under the voluntary herd certification program.

Owners enrolled in the program are responsible for:

- submitting samples from all cervids over 12 months of age that die;
- maintaining facilities and fences to meet Yukon Game Farm Regulations standards;
- keeping records of all cervids on the premises and moving onto or off of the premises;
- employing an accredited veterinarian; and
- conducting annual inventories.

Accredited Veterinarian

An accredited veterinarian is a veterinarian trained and accredited by CFIA for the purpose of this program.

The accredited veterinarian in the employ of the owner is responsible for:

- assessing the health of the herd to determine whether any cervid is demonstrating signs of CWD;
- reporting any suspected case of CWD to the CFIA District Veterinarian;
- collecting samples and submitting samples if the owner has not sent them directly to a provincial laboratory.

Part C: ENROLLMENT

1. Eligibility of the Herd The certification program is open to any owner of a premises on which cervids are kept provided the owner and the premises meet the program requirements and the owner of the premises has not had the right to participate in the herd certification program removed.

The owner of a premises who wishes to participate in the Yukon Voluntary CWD Herd Certification Program will be provided with an application for enrollment by Yukon Agriculture Branch. The completed enrollment application will include:

- A signed contract between the owner of the premises and the accredited veterinarian responsible for the care of the cervids on the premises;
 - A signed contract between the owner of the premises and the Yukon Agriculture Branch. The contract includes a clause releasing CFIA from any possible liability arising from under the certification program;
 - An up-to-date herd inventory list. All cervids on a premises must be included in the herd enrolled in the certification program, ownership notwithstanding;
 - Authorization by the owner for an initial physical herd inventory audit to be conducted by Yukon Agriculture Branch staff; and
 - Authorization by the owner to allow publication of the status of the herd under the program. Information sharing requires all herd information, including inventories, test results, movement permits, movement of embryos and semen, deaths, or sales relevant to CWD or to the population of the herd, to be available to the owner, the CFIA, the Government of Yukon Agriculture Branch, the Regional Administrator and the accredited veterinarian.
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- Multiple premises may be listed under the same certification contract if the premises belong to the same owner and are located in proximity to each other, and if the premises collectively meet the requirements of the program. Nevertheless, transport permits from CFIA are still required for any movements between the premises.

Part D: REQUIREMENTS OF THE PROGRAM

1. Facilities

Facilities must be appropriate as follows:

- facilities must allow for the easy handling of cervids and for examination of all cervid identification devices including CFIA Health of Animals Tags;
- fences must be adequate to prevent the escape of cervids and must meet Yukon Game Farm Regulations standards; and
- the freezer must be adequate to freeze a cervid head.

2. Identification

Identification is required for all cervids before they reach eleven months of age, and by two unique identification devices, one of which is an official tag. Cervids must also be tagged if moved off the premises or if a change of ownership occurs.

Official tags include:

- CFIA Health of Animals Tag; and
- Tags issued by the Yukon Agriculture Branch or by another government jurisdiction.

The use of large dangle tags will facilitate visual inventory identification of cervids.
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3. Records

The owner must keep detailed herd records of every cervid that is born on or enters the premises no matter who the owner is or who is responsible for the cervid. The records must be kept for a period of five years after the animal has left the herd or has died. The records must be made available to the program delivery person or the CFIA inspector at any reasonable time and must be presented at the time of each annual inventory.

For any animal purchased, sold, or born on, moved onto or from a premises identified on the application form, the following animal records must be kept:

- the animal's official identification numbers and any other identification;
- sex;
- species and any identifying marks;
- date of birth (day, if available, month and year);
- official identification number and any secondary ID of sire and dam if known;
- official identification number and any secondary ID and sex of progeny if

- known;
- if dead, the date and cause of death, post mortem report and laboratory report;
- any movement permit required under section 76 of the *Health of Animals Regulations*;
- if removed from the premises, the date of removal, the premises to which the animal was moved, and the name, address and telephone number of the person to whom the animal was sold (owners are required to keep bills of sale);
- if an animal was brought into the herd:
- source premises and certification program level;
- name and address of the person from whom the animal was acquired; and
- the day, month, and year of acquisition.

4. Annual Health Inspection

The owner must arrange for an annual herd health inspection with the accredited veterinarian responsible for the herd. This inspection is at the cost of the owner of the premises. The accredited veterinarian will submit a report to the Yukon Agriculture Branch and to the owner of the premises.

5. Reporting of Sick Cervids

The owner of a premises must report to the accredited veterinarian any illness in a cervid over 12 months of age, except a physical injury, lasting longer than two weeks. The accredited veterinarian will be responsible for monitoring the outcome of the case and for reporting the case to the CFIA if CWD is suspected.

6. Sample submissions

The heads of all cervids 12 months of age and older that die on the premises of an enrolled herd are required to be submitted immediately after death to an accredited veterinarian or recognized laboratory, with exceptions outlined in Appendix B.

- The head must retain all identification devices.
- The head must be cooled immediately and, whenever possible, should be submitted fresh.
- When the cervid is not found immediately or the accredited veterinarian or recognized laboratory will not be available, the head should be frozen immediately and submitted as a frozen specimen. This will allow testing of cervids that might not be suitable otherwise.
- The laboratory costs for the CWD test will be covered by the Yukon Agriculture Branch. (Yukon Mandatory CWD Surveillance Program

January 1, 2003)

See Appendix B: CONDITION OF SUBMISSION SAMPLE AND EXEMPTIONS

Part E: INVENTORIES

1. Inventories

The initial inventory and those conducted at the end of the first and second years of participation in the program will be conducted by the Yukon Agriculture Branch staff. Thereafter, every third inventory will also be conducted by Yukon Agriculture Branch staff. Those inventories not conducted by a third party will be done by the producer and he/she may identify the cervids by the use of unique dangle tags which are visible at a distance.

- The Yukon Agriculture Branch inventories shall be conducted to coincide with CFIA triennial tuberculosis and brucellosis testing of Yukon cervids. The Yukon Agriculture Branch will conduct an inventory at this time.
- The inventory will identify all cervids on the premises.
- The initial inventory, the inventories at the end of the first and second years of participation and every third inventory thereafter will identify all cervids by comparing all identification devices, including the Health of Animals tags.
- If for any reason the cervids cannot all be identified by viewing the dangle tag at a distance, the cervids must be identified accurately using the official Health of Animals tag.
- The initial inventory shall be completed within three months of the date of application.
- Each annual inventory must be completed and reported within three months of the anniversary of the initial inventory.

2. Annual Inventory Report

This is the responsibility of the Yukon Agriculture Branch. The annual inventory report will list the following:

- all identification of each cervid on the premises at the time of the inventory;
- all identification devices placed on each cervid, including the current calf crop and any cervids that have lost identification devices;
- all cervids that have entered or left the premises since the last inventory;
- all deaths or escapes;
- the destination of every cervid moved off the premises as established by a bill of sale or, if the animal has not been sold, a signed document showing the destination of the cervid; and

- the test report for every cervid tested for CWD.

The report shall account for every cervid over 12 months of age that died (within the standards set in Appendix B Condition of Sample Submissions) and state that whether the records that are required to be kept by the owner have been examined and found satisfactory.

The report shall be forwarded to the Director of the Yukon Agriculture Branch within the anniversary quarter.

3. Records

The Yukon Agriculture Branch will maintain a data bank with an inventory of all cervids on each enrolled premises and all the information necessary to determine that each cervid has been accounted for. The Yukon Agriculture Branch will be responsible for producing a report that will be made available in advance to the persons (people) conducting the annual inventory.

Part F: ACQUISITIONS, MOVEMENTS, and INTRODUCTION OF LIVE CERVIDS and GENETIC MATERIAL

Acquisitions of live cervids and embryos must come from herds of an equivalent or higher level.

For the two first levels of the certification program, additions can only be made from five herds per year. Herds that exceed this limit are considered to be assembled herds and must re-enroll as such. Herds that are in the third, fourth or fifth level of the certification program or have reached certified status are exempt from this requirement.

1. Equivalent or higher status sources include:

- Canadian herds enrolled at the same level of a herd certification program that has been assessed by CFIA to meet the minimum national standards;
- herds enrolled at an appropriate level of a herd certification program in another country or state of the United States, which has been assessed by CFIA as equivalent to the Canadian minimum national standards; and
- herds in countries assessed and recognized by CFIA as free from CWD.

Acquisitions of live cervids or embryos from herds of a lower status will result in the lowering of the certification level to that of the source of the cervids.

2. Live Auctions

Cervids can be sold at a live auction provided the district veterinarian is satisfied that steps will be taken to prevent direct contact with cervids of a lesser certification status. All cervids must be from enrolled herds whose status is greater than Level E. (After 2004 all cervids must be Level C or higher).

3. Embryos

Embryos collected within 18 months of the time the donor is diagnosed as positive for CWD shall not be used.

4. Semen

There is no evidence that semen can transmit CWD. Semen can be brought into the herd provided the requirements of the *Health of Animals Regulations* governing semen collection are met.

5. Sanitary Precautions

Any cervid showing an illness of more than two weeks duration is not to be moved off the premises or into contact with any cervid it has not previously been in contact with, unless the accredited veterinarian approves the movement for the purposes of treating the animal and the movement will not expose any additional cervids.

If management practices include separating the year's calf crop from the yearlings or adults, no sick adult will be placed in the pens with the calves.

Every third party vehicle that transports cervids must be cleaned and disinfected before loading the cervids. The owner will require the transporter to provide a statement that the truck was cleaned and disinfected and will keep a copy of the statement.

Part G: CERTIFICATION PROGRAM LEVELS and ADVANCEMENT

Owners will have the opportunity to apply for a level other than the initial level, Level E, if they meet the requirements of the certification program for that level (fast tracking). The fast track requirements are set out in Appendix A.

A herd's level upon acceptance into the certification program is based on the day the herd inventory is completed. The anniversary quarter is that quarter in any succeeding year.

If the herd is suspected or proves to be infected at any time during its membership, the herd will be investigated under the CFIA's CWD control program and membership in the CWD Voluntary Herd Certification Program will be automatically suspended.

Level E (the year between the initial inventory and first anniversary inventory)

A herd will retain its Level E status for a minimum of one year. Herds missing diagnostic samples from unaccounted cervids will be suspended from the program until that requirement is met.

Level D, C, B, and A

A herd will retain its status for each level for one year, advancement will then be considered as outlined below based on the annual report and inventory. Failure to submit an annual report for any level within 15 months of the time the herd reached that level will result in suspension of the herd from the CWD Voluntary Herd Certification Program.

Certified Herd Level

After a herd has been at level A for one year the herd will be considered certified and will remain at that level if the herd continues to comply with the conditions set for advancement in levels C, B and A.

A herd will retain its certification status indefinitely if it meets the requirements of the CWD Voluntary Herd Certification Program as shown by the annual inventory report.

The criteria set out below for levels A, B, C, and D also applies to the certified herd level. Failure to meet the requirements may result in suspension or revocation of the herd's certification.

Advancement in Status Level

A herd in the program may advance one year level in status if:
all eligible cervids (more than 12 months of age) that were in the herd or entered the herd in the period of time between the last and current inventory, are accounted for in the reconciliation of the herd inventory, because they:

- are alive and the owner meets the conditions of Part F(1.)(2.) (3.) and (4.)

- of this program,
- have been granted an exemption as set out in Appendix B (5.) of this program,
- died other than by slaughter, and
 - between the initial and the first annual herd inventories and between the first and second inventories, 100% of the eligible cervids that die have been tested (advancement to levels D and C);
 - during all subsequent periods between inventories either
 - all of the eligible cervids that have died have been tested, or
 - 80% of the cervids that have died (other than by slaughter) have been tested and 10% of the total eligible cervids in the herd have been tested following death or slaughter;
 - Tested in this part means that an recognized laboratory has certified that three out of four (75% of) cervid samples tested met the standard set out above in Appendix B, Section 4 as of ‘not incubating’. The remaining fourth must meet the requirement standard of ‘not in final stages’.

The certificate of the recognized laboratory and, if applicable, an explanation as to why the brain was not submitted in acceptable condition must be attached to the herd report.

Herds that meet this requirement will advance to the next level.

A herd on the program will not advance a level if:

The herd has not met these requirements but has submitted specimens for all cervids which die and at least 50 per cent of specimens are testable.

Herds which are in the first two levels (D) and (E) of the program may stay in their current levels but will be suspended for one year until they have met the requirements to advance.

Herds in levels (C), (B) or (A) and will not advance, stay at their current level for one year and their certification is not suspended.

If a herd does not meet the requirements to advance the next year, the herd will drop one year level and its certification will be or remain suspended.

A herd in the program will drop one level if:
it has not submitted all the specimens required but has submitted three out of four specimens and 50 per cent are testable. Level E herds will not drop out of the

program but will stay at that level of the program for one year. All herds will be suspended and investigated. If the herd does not meet the requirements to advance for the next year the herd will drop one level and be suspended for that year.

Suspension

Herds whose certification is suspended will not be issued status certificates under the voluntary certification program for either the herd or cervids in the herd until the suspension is lifted. Consequently, these owners may not sell to other herds in the voluntary certification program. Suspension does not have any impact on the status of the herd for the CWD national eradication program nor will it interfere with the issuance of movement permits (except to note that the voluntary herd status is suspended) nor the ability to sell to producers who are not participating in the voluntary program.

A herd at any level will be suspended if:

- the herd has failed to meet all of the above criteria, for instance example if it has not submitted 3 out of 4 heads of cervids which died;
- the herd does not meet the requirements to advance a status level two years in a row or repeatedly fails to meet the requirements for advancing;
- the status assessor believes that some other aspect of the program is not being met.

Suspended herds should be inspected by the status assessor to determine why the owner is not able to comply with the program. The inspection should include a discussion by the status assessor with the owner as to why the owner is not in compliance and to ensure he understands the requirements of the voluntary program and steps are taken to help the owner comply. Where it appears the herd will not be able to comply with the requirements of the program, the status assessor should revoke the membership.

The herd will be reinstated after the herd meets the requirements of the program for a year but only if the status assessor is satisfied that the owner will continue to comply with the requirements of the program. Conditions may be imposed both during the year's suspension and during the first year after suspension.

Appeals

The owner may appeal a decision:

- not to accept an automatic exemption,
- that a specimen was untestable,
- to suspend or revoke a 'herds status,

to impose conditions before the herd is allowed to participate in the program after a suspension or revocation.

See Appendix C for the Appeal Process

Appendix A

FAST TRACKING CWD VOLUNTARY HERD CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Fast tracking (grandfathering) is allowed for owners with cervid herds that have previously established programs equivalent to the CWD Voluntary Herd Certification Program.

1. Producers must enroll in a program before July 31, 2003.
2. Fast tracking will only be approved for the first two levels, i.e., the second or third level of the program.
3. The requirement for CWD testing of all mortalities would apply during the first two years the herd is enrolled in the program.
4. The following requirements must be met for fast tracking:
 - a) an initial inventory and annual inventory must have been completed by a CFIA or provincial inspector, or an accredited veterinarian. The inventory must have included all cervids on the premises, ownership notwithstanding.
 - b) detailed herd records must be available, showing all movements into and out of the herd, natural increases, use of artificial insemination and embryo transfer. All animals must be accounted for by their presence in the current herd, by documented sale to another producer or hunt farm, by export, by slaughter at an abattoir under the direct inspection of a veterinarian working for the federal or provincial government, or by an approved test on the brain of the cervid.
 - c) the fast tracking report must be signed by the veterinarian responsible for the herd, stating that the veterinarian has been responsible for the veterinary care of the herd and is not aware of any cervid that had symptoms of CWD or died in the herd for the number of years requested.
 - all animals that died at more than 12 months of age must test negative for CWD by immunohistochemistry. Animals slaughtered as part of a group in an abattoir under the direct supervision of a veterinarian employed by a federal or provincial government agency are exempt from this requirement.
 - there must not have been movement from any herd with a lower status.

- the herd must not be under investigation for CWD, nor have animals originating from suspect herds that have died without being tested for CWD nor have animals placed under surveillance by a CFIA veterinarian.

- all animals in the herd must have been identified by two unique tags, one of which is a Health of Animals tag or a tag approved by a provincial government.

Appendix B

CONDITION OF SUBMISSION SAMPLE and EXEMPTIONS

(1.) Where a head is presented to an accredited veterinarian and there is no brain present to forward for testing, the accredited veterinarian will provide the owner with a letter certifying that the head was 'submitted' and no brain tissue was present to test.

The specimen must be submitted to a recognized laboratory for the immuno-histochemistry test and must following the methodology approved by the CFIA at the time of the test. All suspect test results will be confirmed by a CFIA laboratory and the CFIA will be responsible for reporting the results to the owner.

Removal of the brain removed by anyone other than an accredited veterinarian or provincial laboratory will not be counted as submitted.

(2.) Handling the Specimen

In removing the head from the body all the flesh including the spinal cord, should be cut cleanly 15 cm (6 inches) from the head. The spinal cord cannot be pulled or stretched, as it may damage the obex so that it is not possible to test the brain in the proper manner.

Brains in which the obex of the medulla is not present will not be accepted as testable. The most likely reason for the failure to have an obex is killing the cervid with a bullet in such a way as to destroy the obex. Owners should obtain specific instruction from their veterinarian or association as to how to shoot a cervid without destroying the obex. The head must be cooled immediately and if it is not possible to submit it immediately to the accredited veterinarian, the head should be frozen and not allowed to thaw until it reaches the recognized laboratory. This will allow testing of cervids that might not be suitable otherwise.

No matter what condition the head is in it must be submitted to the recognized laboratory.

(3.) Condition of Specimens

Brains that are submitted to recognized laboratories in putrefied condition may not be acceptable for normal testing. If the carcass has deteriorated sufficiently, brain tissue may not be able to be found and no test is possible.

The protein that is associated with CWD appears first in an area of the brain called the 'obex of the medulla'. That very specific location must be identified by the laboratory doing the test, in order to detect cervids that are in the earliest stages of the disease. In the final stages of CWD, the protein can be found in most parts of the brain.

When the correct area to test cannot be found, the ability to determine whether the cervid was infected is greatly reduced. The normal test of the brain of a cervid for CWD will identify animals which are in the early stages of the disease perhaps as long as one year before any signs of the disease are detectable. The test requires that the brain of the cervid be in good physical shape so that the anatomy of the brain can be used to identify the very specific area of the brain that is required to be identified so that the earliest stages of CWD can be seen. The most common reason for not being able to perform such a test is deterioration of the brain from heat.

When the cervid is in the final stages of CWD, the prion is identifiable throughout the brain and the test can be done on any part of the brain that can be found. Testing using this material will not identify cervids in the early stages of the disease. However, it will identify the cervids that are most likely to transmit CWD to other cervids. Ensuring that all cervids are tested to this standard will minimize the chances that a cervid in the herd has transmitted CWD to other cervids.

If the brain is damaged severely enough, the laboratory or accredited veterinarian may not be able to find brain tissues to test. Cervids submitted to the recognised laboratory where brain tissue cannot be identified are not considered to have been tested.

(4.) Results of Analysis on Cervids submitted for CWD Testing.

a.) Where the specimen submitted was adequate for diagnosis of early (incubating) CWD

‘not incubating’

‘The obex of the medulla was stained using a CWD specific antibody and was negative for detectable pathological deposits.

Based on the above results, the animal shows no signs that it was incubating CWD when it died.’

b.) Where the specimen submitted had deteriorated sufficiently that the obex of the medulla could not be identified:

‘not in final stages’.

‘The brain of the animal had undergone significant deterioration and the obex of the medulla could not be identified. Staining of the (name of assumed anatomical region depending on specimen submitted) portion of the brain available using a CWD specific antibody was negative for detectable pathological deposits.

Based on the above results, it is impossible to determine whether the animal was in the early stage (incubation) of CWD, however, the animal shows no signs that it was in the final stages of CWD when it died.’

c.) Where the specimen submitted, did not have identifiable brain tissue:

‘not tested’.

‘The specimen had undergone sufficient deterioration that it was impossible to identify brain tissue to test for CWD.’

(5.) Exemption from Submission of Heads.

The CWD Certified Herd Advisory Committee will consider the following as automatic exemptions from the requirement to submit unless the status assessor suspects the conditions set out were not met or that the exemption is being abused to the detriment of the herd certification program.

A. Destruction of cervids by fire.

- a certificate or letter of an appropriate fire official must accompany the herd report

B. Destruction and carrying away the head of a cervid by a predator.

- a certificate or letter of an appropriate wildlife officer or other government official responsible for investigating such incidents must accompany the herd report

C. Theft.

- a report of the police officer who investigates the theft must accompany the herd report

D. Loss or destruction of the sample when it is no longer in the control of the owner, e.g., by an accredited veterinarian or laboratory. Recognized laboratories should note on reception of the specimen that the obex is not present and the reason why.

- a letter setting out the details of the loss of the sample by the individual responsible must accompany the herd report

E. Slaughter - Cervids that are slaughtered as part of a group of healthy animals in a provincial or federally inspected abattoir with a veterinarian present at the time of slaughter are exempt from this requirement. This exemption does not apply to a cervid slaughtered on an emergency basis. To ensure that a cervid is not considered to have been slaughtered on an emergency basis, arrangements must have been made at least two weeks in advance of the date of the slaughter.

- a document from the abattoir stating that arrangements had been made to slaughter the cervid at least two weeks before the actual slaughter date; or

- a transportation permit from CFIA listing the animals to be shipped to the abattoir obtained at least 2 weeks in advance; and

- a document from the veterinarian who was present when the cervid was slaughtered has to accompany the herd report.

If two of the above documents cannot be obtained, the owner should have the cervid tested.

Carcasses or parts of carcasses of cervids tested for CWD must be held pending test results, and for that reason, arrangements must be made with the slaughterhouse before sending animals. The owners should consult with those responsible for inspection of the meat while making arrangements.

F. Any other reason over which the owner could not reasonably be expected to have control which results in the destruction or disappearance of the body such as a flood.

- a letter or report by an acceptable third party which sets out the details of the reason for failure to submit the sample must accompany the herd report.

Appendix C

APPEAL PROCESS

At the request of the owner, the Yukon Agriculture Branch will appoint a committee of three to consider all appeals. The committee will consider all appeals and provide the status assessor with a recommendation as to whether the appellant has meets the criteria and the appeal should be allowed. A representative for the Director of Yukon Agriculture will be the non-voting chairman of the committee. A representative of the Yukon Game Growers Association may assist the committee by providing information relating to the cervid industry. A representative of the District CFIA Veterinarian or his/her representative may observe the appeal hearing as a non-voting member of the committee.

Each of the three individuals committee members will each represent one of the following groups:

- A. a licenced veterinarian;
- B. a representative of the office of the Yukon Medical Officer of Health;
- C. a representative of the Yukon Wildlife Branch;
- D. a representative of the Yukon Agriculture Branch;
- E. a representative of the Yukon Horse & Rider Association;
- F. a representative of the Yukon Outfitters Association.

The person who will make the final decision for Director of Agriculture will be the chairman of the committee.

The committee will recommend an exemption from the requirement to submit a specimen to the status assessor where, in spite of an appropriate management system, some unusual occurrence has caused the owner not to be able to submit a specimen. The committee, in considering the appeal, is considering the reason for the failure to test the specific specimen. The committee is not determining the overall risk of the herd having CWD.

Requests for appeal will be in writing and will set out the reasons why the appeal should be considered. Where there is specific information concerning the circumstances surrounding the death of the cervid or an incident in the herd, the request shall be countersigned by the practising veterinarian responsible for the herd.

The committee may consider requests for exemption in written form and need not meet in person.

Where the status assessor believes that the recommendation of the committee would jeopardize the status of the certified herd program, the status assessor may convene a further committee consisting of a representative of the CFIA national animal health program and two other provincial veterinarians from provinces where the government is responsible for the program. A

representative of the national cervid organisation will be an ex-officio member of the committee.
Appendix D

ROLES and RESPONSIBILITIES

The National Administrator is the CFIA. The National Administrator is responsible for:

- developing and setting the program standards;
- consulting with provincial governments and industry;
- reviewing regional programs to ensure that the program design is equivalent to the national standard;
- auditing the implementation of regional programs;
- approving laboratories to test for CWD including design and implementation of a quality assurance program;
- conducting confirmatory testing of all suspicious and positive samples tested in recognized laboratories;
- publishing a national list of enrolled herds and their status, updated quarterly; and
- negotiating to have international trading partners recognize the program, and endorsing CFIA export certification for regional certification programs that have been judged by CFIA as meeting the national standards.

The Regional Administrator is the Yukon Agriculture Branch. The Yukon Agriculture Branch is responsible for:

- developing a program that meets the national standard;
developing a contract (application form), which is signed by the owner and accredited veterinarian and which sets out the requirements to be met by the owner;
- the contract must include a statement releasing the CFIA from any liability with respect to the voluntary herd certification program;
- enrolling as members of the program, owners of premises on which deer or elk are kept;
- developing forms required for the program including application forms, annual reports, inventory reports, and certificates;
- appointing and training status assessors and program delivery staff;
- informing members of developments in CWD and the certification program;
- collecting and collating all data on enrolled herds in that region;
- maintaining a data bank used for inventory;
- producing an inventory report, based on the previous year's inventory for use by the individual responsible for delivery of the program;
- issuing certificates indicating the status of a herd;
- issuing a certificate indicating that a cervid is a member of a herd enrolled in the certification program and indicating the status of the herd;

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- informing the CFIA of the status of all enrolled herds on a quarterly basis;
 - setting up an appeal process to exempt owners that failed to comply with testing requirements; and
 - setting up an appeal process for decisions made with respect to the voluntary herd certification program.

The Status Assessor is the Director of Yukon Agriculture Branch. The Director is responsible for:

- verifying reports such as initial and annual inventories;
- approving applications including the level at which the a herd will enter the program;
- approving all changes in status;
- investigating irregularities;
- suspending membership status, conducting hearings and revoking status;
- reporting to the Yukon Agriculture Branch on the status of herds; and
- implementing the appeal process to determine whether an exemption should be granted for owners who failed to comply with testing requirements.

Program Delivery is carried out by veterinarians accredited by the CFIA for that purpose and by Yukon Agriculture Branch staff. The inventory portion of the initial and annual reports is conducted by Yukon Agriculture Branch staff.

The Yukon Agriculture Branch is responsible for:

- reviewing the requirements of the program and responding to questions of the owner of premises applying for or enrolled in the program;
- teaching the owner to recognize the clinical signs of CWD, providing information on the epidemiology of the disease and herd management;
- assessing the facilities on premises proposed for membership in the program;
- conducting a herd inventory;
- reconciling records to ensure that the herd meets the program requirements;
- signing and submitting reports, including the annual inventory to the status assessor.

The accredited veterinarian in the employ of the owner is responsible for:

- assessing the health of the herd to determine whether any cervid is demonstrating signs of CWD;
- reporting any suspected case of CWD to the CFIA District Veterinarian;
- collecting samples and submitting samples if the owner has not sent them directly to a provincial laboratory.

A recognized laboratory is a laboratory that participates with the National TSE Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Network and meets the guidelines set by the CFIA Laboratory Directorate for testing cervids for CWD (See Appendix A.). Recognized laboratories are responsible for:

- collecting, preparing, and testing samples submitted for this program in accordance with the standard operating procedure provided by the CFIA Reference Laboratory for CWD;
- participating in inter-laboratory Quality Assurance activities under the advice of the CFIA Reference Laboratory for CWD, as described in the Quality Guidelines of the Network;
- providing required forms;
- notifying the owner, status assessor, and accredited veterinarian responsible for the herd of negative test results;
- forwarding suspect samples to the CFIA Reference Laboratory for CWD for confirmation (the results are not reported to the owner or accredited veterinarian);
- providing appropriate shipping containers;
- assessing whether a sample is adequate to permit diagnosis of CWD and notifying the owner, status assessor, and accredited veterinarian of samples that are not suitable.

Provincial laboratories that are not recognized to test for CWD may collect specimens and forward them to a recognized laboratory.

Appendix E

RECOGNISED LABORATORIES

Laboratories which can test Samples
for the Voluntary Herd Certification Program

Colorado Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
Attn: Dr. T. Spraker
College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences
Colorado State University
Fort Collins, CO 80523, USA

Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory
Attn: Dr. E.S. Williams
Department of Veterinary Sciences
University of Wyoming
1174, Snowy Range Road
Laramie, Wyoming 82070, USA

Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development
Attn: Dr. B. Miller
Agri-Food Surveillance Systems, Food Safety Division
Main Floor, O.S.Longman Bldg.
6909- 116 Street
Edmonton, AB T6H 4P2

Prairie Diagnostic Services
Attn: Dr. K. West
52 Campus Drive
Saskatoon, SK S7N 5B4

Animal Health Laboratory
Laboratory Services Division
University of Guelph
Box 3612
Door P2, Building 49, McIntosh Lane
Guelph, Ontario N1H 6R8
Phone: 519-824-4120, ext 4502
Fax: 519-821-8072