

18 September 2020

NEW ZEALAND'S POSITION WITH REGARD TO CWD

I confirm that New Zealand's animal health situation with regard to chronic wasting disease (CWD) is as follows:

- New Zealand has never had a case of CWD.
- New Zealand does not permit the importation of deer/elk or their genetic material from North America.
- New Zealand has never allowed the importation of meat and bone meal for feeding to livestock. New Zealand's livestock industry is primarily pastoral-based. New Zealand's [Biosecurity \(Ruminant Protein\) Regulations 1999](#) prohibits feeding of ruminant tissues to ruminant animals. These Regulations, which came into force on 1 January 2000, replaced a voluntary industry ban which had operated since mid-1996.
- New Zealand has a targeted surveillance programme that offers veterinarians financial incentives to submit for laboratory examination, brains of deer exhibiting signs of chronic ill-thrift, progressive central nervous system diseases or acute pneumonia. There is an active education program to inform veterinarians and farmers of the clinical signs of CWD.
- The causal agent of CWD is notifiable under New Zealand's [Biosecurity \(Notifiable Organisms\) Order 2016](#).



Veronica Herrera
Director
Diagnostic & Surveillance Services Directorate