

08 April 2026

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 import live deer or elk from any country. Imported genetic material is only permitted from Australia and the United Kingdom, both countries recognized as free from CWD.
- 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](#) prohibit feeding of ruminant tissues to ruminant animals. These Regulations came into force on 1 January 2000, replacing 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 a notifiable under New Zealand's [Biosecurity \(Notifiable Organisms\) Order 2016](#).



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