

1 March 2019

NEW ZEALAND'S POSITION WITH REGARD TO CWD

As New Zealand's Director Diagnostic & Surveillance Services, 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. Regulations prohibiting feeding ruminant tissues to ruminants came into force on 1 January 2000. The Regulations 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 a notifiable organism under the Biosecurity Act 1993.



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