



Northeast Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, Inc.

RESOLUTION

Securing and Maintaining State Regulatory Authority and Oversight of All Captive Cervids

WHEREAS, free-ranging cervids, particularly the white-tailed deer, are an important and valuable wildlife resource held in public trust by various state governments; and

WHEREAS, the possession and movement of captive cervids constitutes the most serious known threat, via transmission of diseases such as Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), tuberculosis, and brucellosis, to the region's free-ranging deer resource; and

WHEREAS, a Chronic Wasting Disease Plan approved in 2006 by the Northeast Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, Inc. (NEAFWA) regarding CWD and available here: http://www.neafwa.org/uploads/2/0/9/4/20948254/northeast_association_of_fish_and_wildlife_agencies_chronic_wasting_disease_plan.pdf, cites and confirms the risks of captive cervids on the northeast region's free-ranging deer resource and the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation; and

WHEREAS, a Chronic Wasting Disease resolution (see http://www.neafwa.org/uploads/2/0/9/4/20948254/chronic_wasting_disease_10-29-14.pdf) was adopted by NEAFWA in 2014 that "urges every state and province within the region to take all possible measures to prevent the additional introduction and further spread of CWD;" and

WHEREAS, cervids, whether free-ranging or confined, are defined in law as wildlife rather than domestic livestock in many states; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture's Federal Rule regarding captive cervids and CWD does not adequately protect the free-ranging deer resource; and

WHEREAS, state agricultural departments have a different mission than state fish and wildlife agencies and often are not given adequate resources to monitor captive cervid facilities or enforce captive cervid regulations; and

WHEREAS, communication between state agricultural agencies and fish and wildlife agencies often is lacking when involving captive cervids, leading to inconsistencies in policy and management of captive cervids; and

Connecticut • Delaware • District of Columbia • Maine • Maryland • Massachusetts

New Brunswick • Newfoundland • New Hampshire • New Jersey • New York

Nova Scotia • Ontario • Pennsylvania • Prince Edward Island • Quebec

Rhode Island • Vermont • Virginia • West Virginia



Northeast Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, Inc.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, agricultural-based policies regarding captive cervids (e.g., permitting the comingling of captive cervids with domestic animals) often violate numerous wildlife-based principles that when followed would protect native wildlife populations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NEAFWA affirms that fish and wildlife agencies should work diligently to secure or maintain regulatory authority and oversight over all captive cervid facilities within their respective jurisdictions.

Adopted: April 3, 2016

Connecticut • Delaware • District of Columbia • Maine • Maryland • Massachusetts
New Brunswick • Newfoundland • New Hampshire • New Jersey • New York
Nova Scotia • Ontario • Pennsylvania • Prince Edward Island • Quebec
Rhode Island • Vermont • Virginia • West Virginia