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## Resolution 2002-02-06 Chronic Wasting Disease Prevention

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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**Resolution 2002-02-06**

**CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE PREVENTION**

**WHEREAS**, chronic wasting disease is a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy that poses a significant risk to the health of both free-ranging and captive deer and elk; and

**WHEREAS**, chronic wasting disease has the potential to adversely impact wildlife populations, limit interest in recreational and commercial use of deer and elk, and negatively impact rural economies; and

**WHEREAS**, there is evidence suggesting that chronic wasting disease may have spread between captive elk and free-ranging cervids at some locations; and

**WHEREAS**, healthy-appearing infected cervids may transmit the causative agent during the prolonged incubation period and before showing signs of chronic wasting disease; and

**WHEREAS**, at this time there is no treatment, vaccine, or practical live animal test for chronic wasting disease; and

**WHEREAS**, the intrastate/provincial, interstate, or international movement of live captive elk is the documented source of chronic wasting disease infections in numerous captive elk herds in the United States and Canada; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Agriculture is proposing a program to eliminate chronic wasting disease from captive deer and elk and this program requires five years of comprehensive monitoring before a captive deer or elk herd may be regarded as free of the disease.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies urges the prevention of chronic wasting disease introduction by prohibiting importation of live captive cervids; or reduce the risk of introduction by permitting importation of live captive cervids only from herds regarded as free of the disease after monitoring for at least five years.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies urges its member agencies and other appropriate animal health and agriculture agencies to promulgate and strongly enforce regulations to this effect.