



NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION POLICY

2101 – Wildlife Disease (Revised: 09/12/2013)

Supersedes:

No. 2101 - Wildlife – Rabies in, dated January 1, 1977

Issue/Purpose:

The Department monitors for diseases in wildlife in an effort to detect and control significant wildlife diseases that are discovered in the state.

Coordination of direct actions and responses between the department and NRC needs to occur in order to facilitate and enable hunters in assisting with sampling needs for disease surveillance and any additional culling that disease surveillance and response plans may require.

Definitions:

Zoonotic disease – a disease communicable from animals to humans under natural conditions (Webster)

Policy:

The NRC will strive to assist the state department, as appropriate, in implementation of disease response plans by way of regulating taking of game by hunters.

- As appropriate the NRC will strive to assist state departments in implementation of disease response plans by way of regulating taking of game by hunters.
- Any outbreaks of significant wildlife diseases shall be thoroughly investigated and steps for control, management or eradication shall be determined if not already outlined in a specific Departmental disease plan.
- NRC authority can be used to alter the manner and method of take of animals for disease surveillance and management purposes. This policy recognizes that the commission has authority to enable hunter assistance to aid the Department in disease surveillance and response. This was made evident by the passage of Proposal G in Michigan.
- The commission will make every effort to use sound science in concert with its authority to mitigate the risks and consequences of wildlife diseases, such as population level losses to wildlife from disease outbreaks.
- If the disease is zoonotic, the Department of Community Health shall be notified and utilized for plan implementation.

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- If there is a spillover of a disease in wildlife to domestic livestock, the Department shall coordinate control, eradication and management efforts with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.
- Treatment and control options listed in the Wildlife Disease Manual shall be utilized if feasible and if no other Departmental disease plan is available.

Related Reference:

Michigan Wildlife Disease Manual – www.michigan.gov/wildlifedisease

Michigan Surveillance and Response Plan for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) of Free-Ranging and Privately-Owned Cervids, Revised July 18, 2012 – www.michigan.gov/cwd

2101 – Wildlife Disease is hereby approved.

J.R. Richardson, Chair

Effective Date