A case of chronic wasting disease in a wild reindeer in Norway

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• 15. March a sick wild reindeer was detected in connection with tagging of animals in Southwest-Norway
• The animal had moved out of the flock, was moribund and died soon after the inspectors arrived at the spot
• The movement of the animal was normal to start with, but it soon got problems after being stressed by the helicopter
Facts

- The animal was sent to Norwegian Veterinary Institute for necropsy and laboratory examination
- It was a female animal below medium condition, not pregnant and about 2,5 years old
- Findings were:
  - Ruptures and bleeding in musculature
  - Pulmonary edema and circulation problems
  - No special findings concerning microbiology and parasitology
- Samples were taken for TSE
Facts

- Test for TSE carried out by the Norwegian Veterinary Institute (ELISA, WB and IHC)
- The animal tested positive for TSE, presumtiv CWD
- The Norwegian Food Safety Authority was informed
- The samples are sent to EU and OIE reference laboratory
- Both reference laboratories have come to the same conclusion, CWD diagnose confirmed
Wild reindeer population in Norway

- The wild reindeer population in Norway is about 30,000 animals
- The positive animal was from Southwest-Norway
- The population in this area is about 2,500 animals
- Norway has a population of about 250,000 semi-domestic reindeers
- The main population of semi-domestic reindeers is kept in the North of Norway
Food safety

• The Norwegian Food Safety Authority considers meat from wild reindeer to be safe to eat
• This is based on:
  – International research has not been able to find any connection between CWD and disease in humans
  – Information from Norwegian Institute of Public Health
  – Information from WHO
• Only healthy animals are slaughtered and animals going to human consumption undergo control prior to entering the food chain
• No action is taken concerning the wild reindeer meat in the marked
Export

• Wild reindeer meat is not exported
• All export of meat is from semi-domestic reindeer from the north of Norway
• The export goes mainly to Iceland, Sweden and Denmark (99 %)
• The export in 2015 was 2059 kg
### Surveillance from 2004-2015

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Farmed deer</th>
<th>Wild deer</th>
<th>Not specified</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fallow d.</td>
<td>Red d.</td>
<td>Reindeer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004 *</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>618</td>
<td>14</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015 *</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>621</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- All together 1998 samples have been tested for CWD since 2004
- In Norway TSE (included CWD) is notifiable for all animals, included wild reindeers
Action taken immediately

• Increased monitoring of the wild reindeer population concerned
  - Sick animals will be taken out and tested
  - The population will be monitored during the calving season
  - A selection of bucks will be taken out and tested
• Increased monitoring of nearby wild reindeer population
• Increased monitoring of other cervides in the area
• Measures to avoid mix of wild and semi-domestic reindeer
• Risk assessment by Norwegian Scientific Comitee observed by EFSA
Action taken in the autumn

The hunting season for wild reindeer is in August
The slaughter season for semi-domestic reindeers starts in September
• A surveillance program will be carried to cover the wild reindeer population
• A surveillance program will be carried out for semi-domestic reindeer
• Working on cooperation with Sweden and Finland on surveillance of semi-domestic reindeer
Thank you for your attention!