



04/07/16

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

The British Deer Society issues new guidance on preventing the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease to UK

The British Deer Society has launched a new leaflet aimed at hunters and sporting agents containing important recommendations to prevent the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). The communication was distributed to attendees at last week's GWCT Scottish Game Fair at Scone Palace and has also been sent to other key public and private stakeholders, including scientists, vets and deer groups.

The updated advice replaces previous guidance and follows an increase in risk level to the UK with the announcement of three cases of the disease in Norway. CWD has previously mainly been found in North America. All those visiting areas at risk of infection, especially for hunting purposes, must appreciate that it is almost impossible to thoroughly sterilise potentially contaminated kit and clothing so are strongly encouraged to consider leaving behind or disposing of what cannot be completely sanitised.

Sporting agents, hosts and guides are urged to make sure all guests to the UK are aware of the risks and take steps to ensure that their equipment is suitably clean to minimise the risk of spreading the disease.

CWD is fatal in deer, highly infectious and belongs to the same group of diseases as scrapie and 'mad cow disease'. It is spread through contact with deer body fluids and parts. It is not thought to pose a health risk to humans or other species, but, if CWD spreads to the UK, it could result in disruption to stalking activities, restrictions on the sale of venison and live deer, problems for deer farming and the death of large numbers of the wild deer population.

To download a copy of the leaflet, visit www.bds.org.uk.

For up-to-date information on CWD, visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/chronic-wasting-disease>

<http://www.bds.org.uk/index.php/research/chronic-wasting-disease-cwd>

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/animal-welfare/Diseases/disease/wasting>

For media enquiries, please contact Selena Barr via media@bds.org.uk.

Notes to editors:

1. The BDS is a Registered Charity, formed in 1963, dedicated to the welfare of the six species of wild deer in the UK and Northern Ireland.
2. It has over 6,000 members and supporters with wide and varied interests, but united in the common interest of deer welfare.
3. The Society aims include the promotion of skillful and sensitive management of the deer population.
4. The BDS conducts research and educational programmes to further the aims of the Society.
5. For further information about the Chronic Wasting Disease leaflet and guidance contact John Bruce, BDS Trustee/Director and Scottish Council Chairman on scottishoffice@bds.org.uk or 01738 813196.
6. 6. For more details about the British Deer Society, contact Sarah Stride, General Manager on h.q@bds.org.uk or 01425 655434.