

## CWD update from Norway December 2016

Screening work for CWD in wild deer in Norway from this year's hunting season is now completed, with 6000 animals tested from all over the country, including 2000 red deer. We have two more cases, a 7 year old male and 4 year old female reindeer, both from the Nordfjella herd. That's the same herd as the other 'positive' reindeer. Both were in apparently good health; the male was a fine specimen (see photo in link).

824 additional animals which died in accidents or were found dead in 2016 were screened as well (routine practice, and how the 3 previous positives were discovered) , 0 positives there.

So in all we have had 5 positive tests, 2 in female moose in Selbu SE of Trondheim, which showed symptoms but were both very old (13 and 14 years old); and 2 females and a male in reindeer in the same isolated group in southern Norway, none of them old - the original female was 3 to 4 years old - and none of which showed symptoms.

We're still checking semi-domestic reindeer as the main slaughter is still underway. 0 positive from 824 tested individuals there so far.

So, we can be sure prevalence is low (0.0003% of wild deer tested in 2016), appears restricted to very small geographical areas, and so far none in red deer despite the very large sample.

<http://www.miljodirektoratet.no/no/Nyheter/Nyheter/2016/November-2016/To-av-6-000-hadde-skrantesjue/>

So far as it goes indicates low prevalence, and *apparently* not affecting carriers, except for old animals. Remains early days, but data is consistent with the theory that it's epidemic and fatal in N. American deer because it is new to them.

We're now working out what to do in the future. Continued screening and more focused research will be first. The Nordfjella reindeer management area, which has 2500 animals in total, divides into two geographical subareas north and south separated by a road. This is a strong barrier to reindeer movement. All the positives are from the north.