

## **CWD in Norway – a state of emergency for the future of cervids (Phase II) – Report from The Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food Safety (VKM)**

### **Synopsis by John Bruce**

The Norwegian Scientific Committee for food safety has composed an incredibly thorough, complex and sadly strident strategy for the situation that they face, a local population of reindeer which are probably infected with the same type of CWD found in North America. They have however identified the moose TSE as a different type.

They make proposals with options of strategy for the cervids of Norway, they consider the issue to be “a state of emergency for the future of Cervids”, the strategies include do nothing, or reduction / extermination culls for each species in the affected areas.

The apparent conclusion is arrived at by complex analysis of facts which suggest that there is a chance to exterminate CWD in Reindeer in 2017/18 and that this work is essential. The herd is isolated and if extermination removes live carriers then the multiplication of the prions and the distribution of the prions by principle species and by third party species should be minimised. The proposal suggests the construction of corrals in the summer of 2017, before the frost, so herds can be systematically culled humanely, no doubt stalking will be required also.

This an incredibly brave strategy which should be applauded.

No decision has been reached as yet, but, the logic and intent of the plan is honourable.

The Elk TSE is different and justifies further monitoring and surveillance before selecting a strategy; it will be a different prospect if CWD is found in Elk as the population is widespread and mobile.