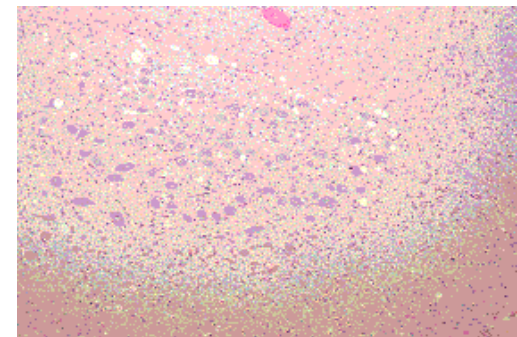
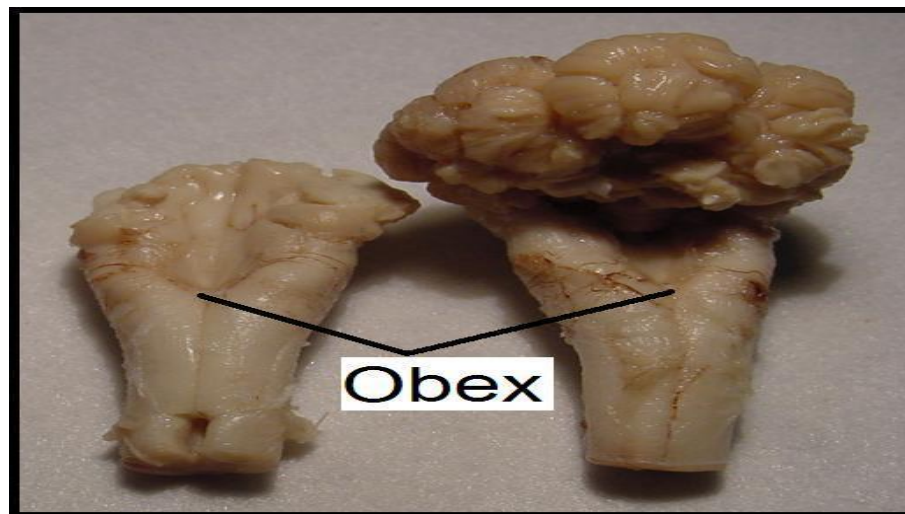


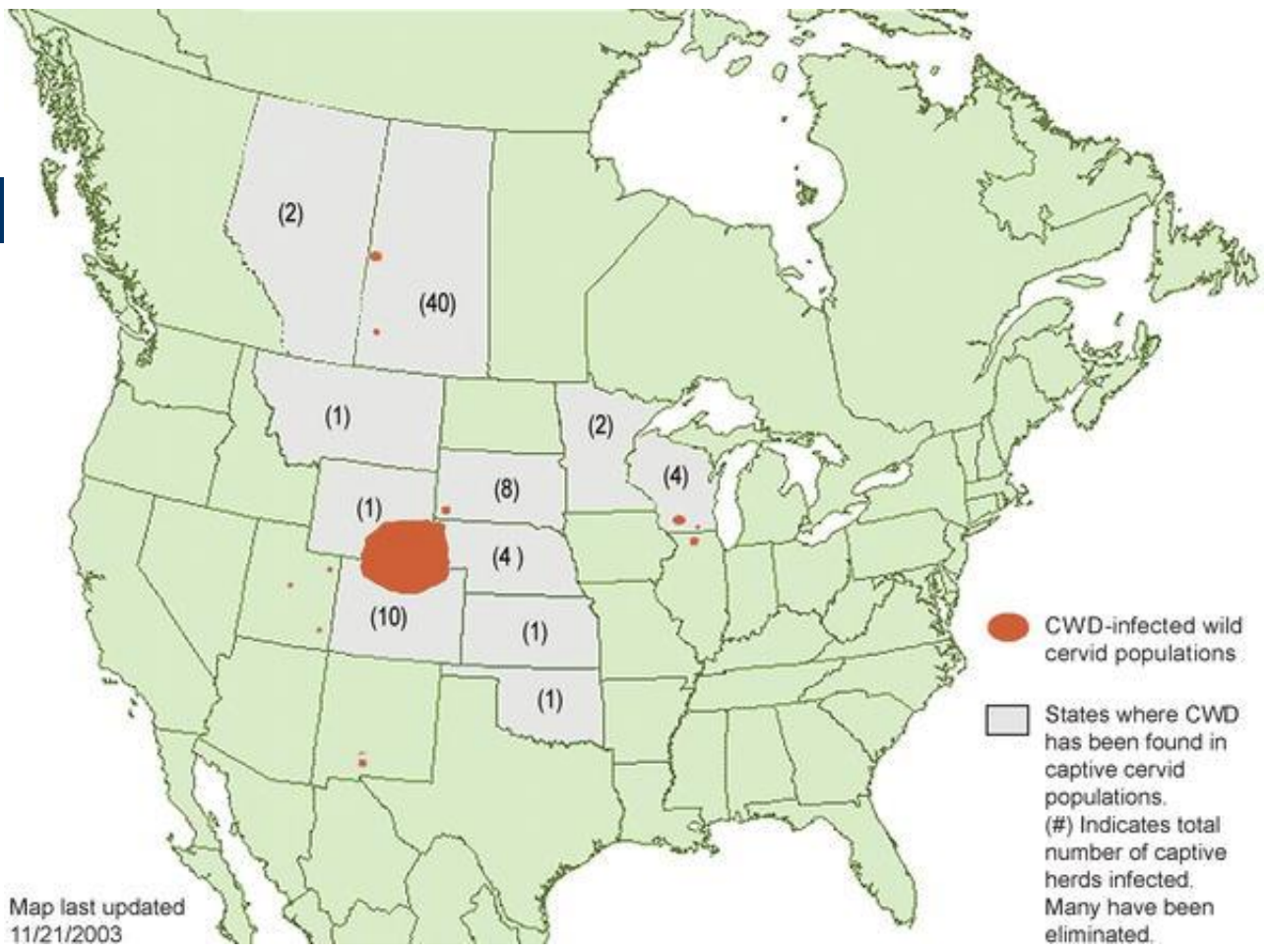
Chronic Wasting Disease in Elk and Mule Deer



What is “Chronic Wasting Disease” (CWD)

- A transmissible spongiform encephalopathy that effects the brain tissue of Elk and Deer, not much is known about the disease but scientists are studying it.





Map last updated
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● CWD-infected wild cervid populations.

■ States where CWD has been found in captive cervid populations. (#) Indicates total number of captive herds infected. Many have been eliminated.

Symptoms of CWD

- Animal is disorientated
- Animals lose control of basic bodily functions
- Finally death occurs
- Animal's brain tissue is riddled with holes



Causes of CWD

- Caused by a protein prion that is abnormal
- Protein prions are found in all mammals

Diagnosis

- There are no approved tests for live animals
- Due to the slow -growing nature of the disease, currently animals over 16 months are tested
- On deceased animals, the brain stem is removed and a staining test is used on tissue samples.



Treatment

- There is no treatment
- There is no vaccine for prevention

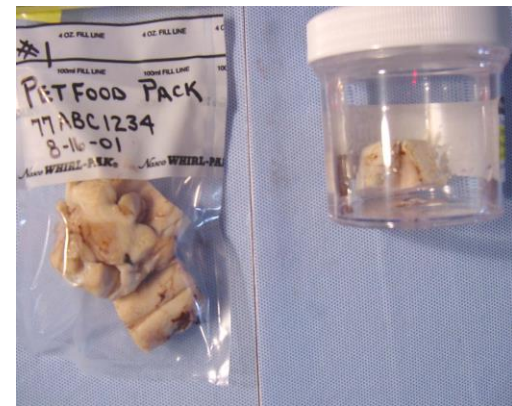
Facts of CWD



- Scientists and biologists have known about the disease for 40 years.
- The first case of CWD was in a captive mule deer in Wyoming.
- The World Health Organization and the US Food and Drug Administration have been studying the disease and have found no evidence that CWD is a threat to humans.
- CWD is similar to mad cow disease.

Prevention and cures of CWD

- The only prevention for this disease is to make sure if you raise elk or deer that they are in a clean
- If you hunt elk or deer, prevention for transmitting the disease would be to make sure you cook your meat very well and that it is clean.
- As of right now, there is no cure, but scientists and biologists are searching for one.
- Affected animals must be euthanized and the carcass incinerated.



Case Scenario:

- A hunter friend comes to you as a agriculture student and says to you that he is afraid of this CWD scare in Colorado. He wants to keep hunting, but is afraid of becoming ill due to eating deer and elk.
- Write down how you would respond to his concern. You have 5 minutes. Begin.

Bibliography

- Etling, Kathy. “Mad Cows, Mad deer, Mad humans.” American Hunter Sept 2001: 28-34.
- Etling, Kathy. “Wasting away in the west” Petersens Hunting June 2001: 10-11.