



88 Beech Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452
(802) 878-6888 voice • (802) 878-2871 fax
www.vtvets.org • info@vtvets.org

VVMA Policy Statement

February 8, 2009

Captive Hunt

The Vermont Veterinary Medical Association expresses serious concern about the infectious disease risk inherent in the importation of cervidae from outside of Vermont's borders. Many states have identified the presence of Chronic Wasting Disease in both captive or wild deer and elk. In addition, several states have identified wild ruminants (deer or bison) as reservoirs for *Mycobacterium bovis* (bovine tuberculosis). Importation of these animals thereby presents a significant medical risk, not only to native white-tail deer and moose populations of Vermont, but also to the state's valuable herds of dairy and beef cattle. Such importation, if allowed to occur at all, should be under strict regulation and surveillance by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture and/or the Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife.

**Approved by the Executive Committee on December 2, 2008
and confirmed on February 7, 2009.**