**Chronic wasting disease (CWD) in wildlife**

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Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a fatal infectious prion disease that affects cervids. In April 2016 CWD was diagnosed in wild reindeer in Norway. Until then CWD had only been found in North America and South Korea.

Based on recommendations from national experts, and as a step in the attempt to eradicate the disease, it was decided that the entire infected wild reindeer herd should be culled. The culling of the 2000 animals was completed Spring 2018, and the test results showed a total number of 19 positive animals. The area will now be left fallow for at least five years. Then the wild reindeer population shall be re-established.

Salt licks in the area, which are potentially a major source of infection, are for the most part fenced in. Fences along selected stretches are erected to keep semi-domesticated reindeer and wild reindeer from the affected area. Some nationwide measures are also introduced, like a restriction on the movement of cervids and a prohibition on feeding wild cervids.

Since April 2016, Norway has performed more than 45 000 tests. The programme covers all types of cervids, both farmed and wild. It also implements the EU-survey programme for CWD.

In addition to the outbreak in wild reindeer, three moose and one red deer have tested positive. This atypical type of CWD differs from the contagious type found in wild reindeer and in North America, and it seems less or not contagious.

Handling CWD is challenging and requires a lot of cooperation between different institutes and organisations. It is also dependent on having sufficient financial resources. An estimated cost from April 2016 - January 2019 related to the surveillance programme and other measures performed is about 10 million euro. This estimate does not include labour by the authorities or others.