



WHAT'S BUGGING WILD CRITTERS?

An Interesting Resource on Wildlife Disease

1. Alberta Fish and Wildlife has launched a new series of fact sheets that provide information about some of the common parasites and diseases of wildlife and fish in Alberta.
2. This series is designed to answer questions from the public and hunters who may find "something wrong" with the animals that they harvest.
3. Most, if not all, wild animals carry other species that live in various tissues and organs, or live in or on the animals' hair, feathers, or skin. In other words, these animals are "infected" with other species that live in or on them, which is very common. On the other hand, "disease" is a situation where one animal is detrimentally affected by another species that lives in or on it, and this is extremely rare.
4. Anyone who finds a sick or dead animal is asked to call any local office of the Fish and Wildlife Division, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (in the blue pages of local Telus phone directory, or at the government switchboard at 310-0000). Be aware that death is quite a natural part of the workings of nature and therefore people should report dead things only if they find a significant number of dead fish or wildlife, or if you believe there is an unusual situation associated with the death of wild animals.
5. The wildlife disease web page address is:
<http://srd.alberta.ca/BioDiversityStewardship/WildlifeDiseases/Default.aspx>
6. The following list identifies the current and proposed Fact Sheets that deal with big game, waterfowl, ungulates, and other animals that are profiled on the Alberta Fish and Wildlife series website.

Wildlife parasite or disease	Primary habitat	Fact Sheet #
Abscesses	Big Game	6
Anthrax *	Big Game	5
Avian Botulism	Waterfowl	4
Avian Cholera	Waterfowl	-
Besnoitea	Big Game	-
Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) *	Big Game	2
Broad Fish Tapeworm	Fish	-
Brucellosis *	Big Game	1
Canine Distemper	Carnivores	-
Chlamydiosis *	Waterfowl	-
Chronic Wasting Disease	Big Game	10
Echinococcus multilocularis *	Carnivores	-
Encysted Larvae in Fish	Fish	-
Filarial Worms	Carnivores & Ungulates	-
Fly Larvae: Bots and Warbles	Big Game	-
Giant Liver Fluke	Big Game	20
Giardiasis *	Furbearers	-
Hantavirus *	Small Mammals	7
Hydatid Tapeworm *	Big Game, Carnivores	17
Legworm	Big Game	-

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Lice	Big Game, Waterfowl	-
Liver Blisters (<i>Taenia hydatigena</i>)	Big Game, Carnivores	14
Lungworms (<i>Dictyocaulus</i> , <i>Protostrongylus</i>)	Big Game	-
Lyme Disease *	Small Mammals	12
Meningeal Worm	Big Game	-
Moose Measles (<i>Taenia krabbei</i>)	Big Game, Carnivores	16
Newcastle Disease Virus *	Waterfowl	25
Parvovirus	Carnivores	-
Rabbit Blisters (<i>Taenia pisiformis</i>)	Hares, Rabbits, Carnivores	15
Rabies *	Carnivores, Other mammals	13
<i>Raphidascaris</i>	Fish	-
Ringworm *	Big Game	19
Sarcocystis	Waterfowl, Big Game	11
Sarcoptic Mange *	Carnivores	9
Skin Tumors of Fish	Fish	26
Skin Tumors of Mammals	Various Mammals	24
Soremouth *	Big Game	-
Swim Bladder Worm (<i>Cystidicola</i>)	Fish	-
Swimmer's Itch *	Waterfowl	-
Ticks: Winter , Wood , & Rabbit	Big Game, Small Mammals	21,22,23
Trienophorous	Fish	27
Trichinellosis *	Carnivores	18
Tularaemia *	Furbearers	-
Whirling Disease	Fish	-
Yellow Grub (<i>Clinostomum</i>)	Fish	-

- These Fact Sheets are being developed on a regular basis. Please visit the website regularly to look for new postings.

KEY CONTACTS

Alberta Sustainable Resource Development Fish and Wildlife Division	Phone: 310.0000 and ask for the nearest Fish and Wildlife office. Web-site: www.mywildalberta.com
Chronic Wasting Disease	Web-site: www.cwd-info.org
West Nile Virus (WNV)	Web-site: http://www.health.alberta.ca/health-info/WNV-response-plan.html



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