

# 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 and anglers who may find "something wrong" with the animals that they harvest.
3. Most if not all wild animals carry other animals that live in various tissues and organs or live in or on the hair, feathers, or scales of these animals. In other words, these animals are "infected" with species, which live in or on them, and this is very common. On the other hand, "disease", is a situation where one animal is detrimentally affected by another animal 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 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 feel there is an unusual situation associated with death of wild animals.
5. The wildlife disease web page address is [www3.gov.ab.ca/srd/fw/diseases/Index.html](http://www3.gov.ab.ca/srd/fw/diseases/Index.html)
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 this web-site of Alberta Fish and Wildlife series. Work on the Fact Sheets continues and as proposed topics are finalized, "hot links" are provided in the list. A general overview of the Fact Sheet series is provided at <http://www3.gov.ab.ca/srd/fw/diseases/factsheet/Introduction.pdf>

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

# FACT SHEET #17

Wildlife parasite or disease	Fact Sheet	Primary Habitat
Lice	*	Big Game and Waterfowl
Liver Blisters ( <i>Taenia hydatigena</i> )	14	Big Game and Carnivores
Lungworms ( <i>Dictyocaulus</i> , <i>Protostrongylus</i> )	*	Big Game
Lyme Disease	12	Small Mammals
Meningeal Worm	*	Big Game
Moose Measles ( <i>Taenia krabbei</i> )	16	Big Game and Carnivores
Newcastle Disease Virus	25	Waterfowl
Parvovirus	*	Carnivores
Rabbit Blisters ( <i>Taenia pisiformis</i> )	15	Hares, Rabbits, and Carnivores
Rabies	13	Carnivores and other mammals
Ringworm	19	Big Game
Sarcocystis	11	Waterfowl and Big Game
Sarcoptic Mange	9	Carnivores
Skin Tumors of Mammals	24	Various Mammals
Soremouth	*	Big Game
Swimmer's Itch	*	Waterfowl
Ticks: Winter, Wood and Rabbit	21, 22, 23	Big Game and Small Mammals
Trichinellosis	18	Carnivores
Tularaemia	*	Furbearers

\* 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**

**Dial 310-0000** and ask for the nearest Fish and  
Wildlife office.

**Web-site:**

<http://www3.gov.ab.ca/srd/fw/diseases/index.html>

**Chronic Wasting Disease**

[www.cwd-info.org](http://www.cwd-info.org)

**West Nile Virus (WNV)**

[www3.gov.ab.ca/srd/fw/diseases/WNV/index.html](http://www3.gov.ab.ca/srd/fw/diseases/WNV/index.html)

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