

New Zealand Pig Hunting Association Inc



Newsletter – April 2017

Welcome to the first newsletter for 2017.

Interest from affiliated clubs in a Public Liability cover leveraging the NZPHA membership base was insufficient to secure a specific association policy. However, member clubs have been directed to Crombie Lockwood in the hope that as numbers grow an NZPHA wide policy will be available in due course. Enquiries to: Di.Watts@crombielockwood.co.nz

The NZPHA Facebook profile has been relaunched focussing on industry and association news only. Plenty of forums exist for photo's, stories, and other material. Interest has been high.

The results of the Blenheim animal cruelty case are in. The defendants got off on a technicality because the offenses happened before changes were made to the Animal Welfare Amendment Act 2015. Training dogs to hold a pig could land those involved up to 12 months in jail or \$50,000 in fines, if it caused the pig unnecessary distress under the new law. The real lesson from the case was, not to post videos online. Leave the video cameras at home. After reviewing the decision, the RNZSPCA have decided not to appeal.

The tender process is underway for the delivery of the National Firearms Safety Program. We are expecting a decision, July 2017. The police are responsible for administering firearms legislation, primarily The Arms Act 1983, The Arms Regulations 1992 and The Arms (Restricted Weapons and Specially Dangerous Airguns) Order 1984. At present the Mountain Safety Council delivers the firearms safety course nationally under a letter of agreement with the police. Many concerns have been raised about the MSC decision to shift from training delivered by volunteers to training delivered by paid staff. The Firearms Safety Council of Aotearoa NZ has been formed which the NZPHA supports and has a member on that committee. The NZPHA will expect a safety programme that is widely accessible throughout NZ and not just limited to some paid desk jockeys in the main centres.

Kauri Die Back: The Ministry of Primary Industries is being helpful with information regarding the culling of pigs in areas with significant numbers of infected kauri trees. The culls are driven primarily by the simple fact that any level of soil movement can spread the disease. More specifically, field observations indicate that pigs tend to target kauri with bleeding lesions, a number of kauri trees having been seen with deep tusk marks in them. We already know that human foot traffic accounts for approx. 98% of transfer hence the foot wash stations and the construction and upgrading of board walk tracks. The Kauri are a National icon that should be protected and until the results of more recent research are published and released the NZPHA will continue to keep a watching brief on Kauri Die Back.

Go Slow: The research continues. The possibility of Go Slow being linked to Algae Bloom has been discounted. Although similar, the changes in the liver at microscopic level are quite different. Most cases of Go Slow occur in Winter and Spring while Algal blooms peak seasons are Summer and Autumn. Kauri Die Back toxin was another possible link but also discounted on geography and microscopic analysis. Hayley Hunt is doing the research on this subject. h.hunt@massey.ac.nz

The NZPHA have an interest in the Land Care Research trial of wild pigs being surgically implanted with electronic tracking transmitters and released into the Pureora Forest. That trial has finished and all the transmitters accounted for. We are now waiting for OSPRI (the funders of the project) for access to the report /data.

The NZPHA Code of Conduct has been reviewed. There have been a few wording changes to bring it into line with legal expectations. They may seem trivial to the lay person but not only is the NZPHA providing guidelines to ALL the pig hunters in NZ, on how they should engage in their hunting activities, it is also providing a reference for the judiciary when they are making decisions in court cases involving misconduct by pig hunters. There has also been a addition as a result of a request from the NZ Veterinary Association. The Code should be regarded as a living document which will continue to be regularly and spontaneously reviewed. For a copy, go to www.nzpighunting.org.nz

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) - What pig hunters and recreational hunters need to know.

A recent outbreak of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in Norway has highlighted the importance of Biosecurity measures to prevent this disease reaching New Zealand.

CWD does not affect pigs and there has never been a case of CWD in New Zealand but because of the cross over between deer hunters and pig hunters you need to read this.

The message is the same for all people that hunt in CWD affected areas, no matter what they are hunting and for Kiwis hosting hunters from those areas, whether they are here to hunt pigs or other game.

CWD is a neurodegenerative disease of both farmed and wild deer that is always fatal. Cases have been reported in most species of deer although fallow deer have not become infected from natural exposure.

There is no evidence that CWD is transmissible to humans.

CWD is part of the transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy family of livestock diseases. NZ has a TSE-FREE status
CWD is the equivalent of BSE (mad cow disease) and Scrapie in sheep. All of these diseases are fatal, chronic diseases of the brain.

A local outbreak would have devastating effects on ALL aspects of deer farming, on wild animal recovery operations (WARO) and recreational hunting.

A confirmed case of CWD would in the first instance, require all deer on the property to be slaughtered as part of a management response and the indefinite cessation of any deer related activities. There would be buffer zones established to contain and prevent any spread. Not just talking the neighbouring property (who may be CWD free) but 100's of km's as a perimeter

There would be serious consequences for those employed in the production, processing and distribution of deer products industries

There may also be short to long term effects on the Sheep and Beef industries as a result of NZ losing its TSE-Free status.

CWD was spread from the USA to Canada and from Canada to the Republic of Korea through the movement of infected farmed deer. In both the USA and Canada, the disease has escaped into the wild populations and has spread widely. CWD is currently present in USA, Canada, South Korea and Norway.

CWD occurs in overseas regions that are popular with hikers, skiers and trophy hunters. This means there is a risk of CWD being accidentally introduced to NZ on outdoor or hunting gear. Deer body fluids, Deer body parts and infected soil (where it can remain for 20 years) can all transmit CWD, as can hunting knives and clothing. The CWD prion protein is highly resistant to disinfection.

The most important message for recreational hunters is that, all visiting hunters and NZ hunters returning from abroad, should very thoroughly clean the dirt from all footwear, hunting and camping gear used in CWD endemic areas, before bringing it back to NZ, or simply don't bring the gear back at all. Visiting hunters should be encouraged to purchase, hire or have supplied the necessary hunting equipment in NZ.

They should definitely not bring scent based deer lures (many of which contain deer urine) back to NZ.

The NZPHA is still waiting for a response from OSPRI re the proposed policy for the payment of pig heads collected for TB analysis

The NZPHA has been in operation for 7 years. The next review will be of the NZPHA Mission Statement and Strategic Plan.

The NZPHA is following up on a request from a pig hunting club regarding the wearing of HI Viz clothing when hunting on public land. If it is good enough for private land such as Forestry, where it becomes second nature to wear, then why not on public land ? If it helps improve hunter safety, again why not ? The NZPHA is talking with DOC to see if a clause can be added to the DOC hunting permits.

The NZPHA AGM will be held on **Sunday 25th June 2017** starting at 1.30pm

Venue to be confirmed