



Protect Yukon animals: Clean your off-road vehicles

JULY 2014

ANIMAL HEALTH PROGRAM

Animal Health Unit

The Animal Health Unit is responsible for health monitoring and diagnosis of disease in both wildlife and domestic animals. The staff provide expertise in laboratory services and in veterinary medicine to support public health and animal welfare.

The Animal Health Unit and Laboratory are located in the Department of Environment at 10 Burns Road, Whitehorse.

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Dirt and soil can spread disease

Before coming into Yukon, remember that diseases that infect animals could be present in the dirt on your vehicle, trailer or ATV. **While the risk is very low, the solution is easy.** Clean your vehicle thoroughly – especially if you are coming from an area where chronic wasting disease (CWD) or anthrax is common. This simple action will help prevent the inadvertent introduction of these and other animal diseases into Yukon.

What are the risks?

The microbes that cause CWD and anthrax can live in the soil for many years and are very hard to kill. The microbes survive best in clay and quartz soils. ATVs, other off-road vehicles and farm trucks are often driven in muddy conditions and their large tire treads can hold a lot of dirt.

Of most concern are vehicles that have been in areas where CWD or anthrax are common or have been used on a farm where CWD has been diagnosed. CWD is present in parts of Saskatchewan, southeast Alberta and the central United States, especially along river valleys. Anthrax has caused outbreaks in NWT, southern Manitoba, Saskatchewan and some areas of Alberta.

Elk, deer, moose and caribou are susceptible to CWD. Anthrax can affect all hoofed animals.

How to protect Yukon livestock and wildlife

- ▶ Clean your vehicle before you come to Yukon
- ▶ Remove all large chunks of dried mud first
- ▶ Wash vehicle thoroughly, especially tires, wheel wells and undercarriage
- ▶ Wash truck beds, trailers and anything else used to transport off-road vehicles
- ▶ If you clean your vehicle after you arrive in Yukon, do it in an area where hoofed animals are not likely to be exposed to the dirt and/or mud.

The risk of disease spread may be low, but keeping your off road vehicles clean will help to keep Yukon animals safe and healthy.

...tracking animal health...