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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release to all Media Outlets

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**VERGE Completes FIRST Successful LIVE DIAGNOSTIC Clearance of Individual CWD Exposed Animals**

SPRING Texas – VERGE Vet Services has completed the FIRST ever SUCCESSFUL LIVE DIAGNOSTIC test and clearance for individual trace- suspect and exposed deer, as a “one-and-done” test at 12 months.

“By using The VERGE Procedure to obtain regulatory diagnostic MRPLN tissue samples, we’re able to provide regulators and industry an alternative to the existing “kill-to-test” requirements and keep animals alive” said Dr. Nathan Shotts of VERGE.

Previously, individual animals exposed to CWD were euthanized for post-mortem testing. This was the only way to achieve a diagnostic certainty.

“By factoring in both genotype and epidemiology, we’re able to use The VERGE Procedure at 12 months post-exposure, to provide a tool that gives a 99.9% diagnostic accuracy for each animal. This gives regulators diagnostic answers that meet all legal and regulatory standards” said Dr. Shotts. “It’s also a quicker, earlier and stronger diagnostic answer than using other surveillance type tests that require large numbers of animals to be tested, often as late as 24 to 36 months post-exposure, with test sensitivities that can be as low as 60-65%.”

“We’re delighted to be able to provide regulators and industry with a solution that gets the breeders back into business quickly, and that also provides regulators with diagnostic accuracy when making decisions, decisions that can now be made earlier in the epidemiological investigation, rather than months or years later.”

The VERGE Procedure for ante-mortem, live sampling of MRPLN tissues is currently in use as part of the Texas Animal Health Commissions (TAHC) work to implement live CWD testing within Texas. The VERGE Procedure is pending final approval by the USDA for use nationally as part of the Federal CWD program Standards.

*VERGE Vet Services is a full-service, mobile Veterinary practice, specializing in Cervid healthcare and breeding. VERGE has pioneered advances in CWD prevention and testing, including The VERGE Procedure for live testing for CWD. Dr. Nathan Shotts of VERGE is recognized as one of the nation’s foremost experts on CWD, and routinely assist both industry and regulators with cervid health issues.*

For more information contact VERGE Vet Services at [INFO@VergeVet.com](mailto:INFO@VergeVet.com), or at (281) 203-2557 or (281) 203-8460.