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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release to all Media Outlets

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VERGE Procedure Live Test Biopsies Accepted “Without Question” by USDA

Washington DC – The USDA today confirmed that The VERGE Procedure’s live, ante-mortem biopsies have been accepted “Without Question” by the USDA National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) for use as a diagnostic tool for CWD. This final steps paves the way for The VERGE Procedure to be implemented as the first nationally accepted, regulatory, diagnostic “live” ante-mortem test for CWD.

This scientific conclusion comes following an evaluation conducted by staff at NVSL over a period of several months. The evaluation compared VERGE Biopsies of Medial Retropharyngeal Lymph Node (MRPLN) tissues with prior regulatory samples and tissues. The evaluation concluded that The VERGE Procedure Biopsies were acceptable, meeting the standards for correlation and sensitivity to be used as a regulatory test sample.

In a statement released by VERGE Vet Services at the time of the USDA call stated “We’re obviously pleased with the results of the NVSL evaluation, and we look forward to The VERGE Procedure being made available to regulators and industry as a supplemental tool for testing animals for CWD, giving everyone an option to the existing “kill-to-test” requirements of post-mortem testing”.

Dr. Nathan Shotts of VERGE also commented, “We really appreciate the work that the NVSL staff put into this. By doing this work, they eliminated questions about the sensitivity of these biopsies versus the whole tissue, something that still remains to be done for other ante-mortem test concepts. This provides regulators with a diagnostic tool they can use with complete confidence.”

The VERGE Procedure is designed to be in accordance with all USDA and NVSL protocols, regulations, and procedures. It provides a test compliant biopsy of the MRPLN tissue for testing, without the need to euthanize the animal to obtain it.

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, or at (281) 203-2557 or (281) 203-8460.