HORN ROT PROJECT

NZDA
New Zealand Deerstalkers Association

THIS WEB PAGE CONTAINS ALL THE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT. PLEASE READ THE GUIDE TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE BELOW BEFORE FILLING OUT THE SURVEY, THE LINK IS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE.

The *horn rot* manifests as a lesion on the lower dorsal/lateral part of the horn, initially small in size (Fig.1), then it enlarges and, in many cases, causes the horn to break, leaving an irregular stump (Fig.2). The tissue degeneration seems to affect not only the horn sheath but also the underlying bone base (Fig.3).

Fig. 1

THIS RESEARCH AIMS TO DETERMINE THE EXISTENCE, DISTRIBUTION, AND INCIDENCE OF THE PHENOMENON IN THE ALPINE CHAMOIS POPULATION, AND TO EVALUATE IF AND WHICH EPIDEMIOLOGICAL, POPULATION, AND ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS MAY DETERMINE THE APPEARANCE OF *HORN ROT.*

Fig. 2

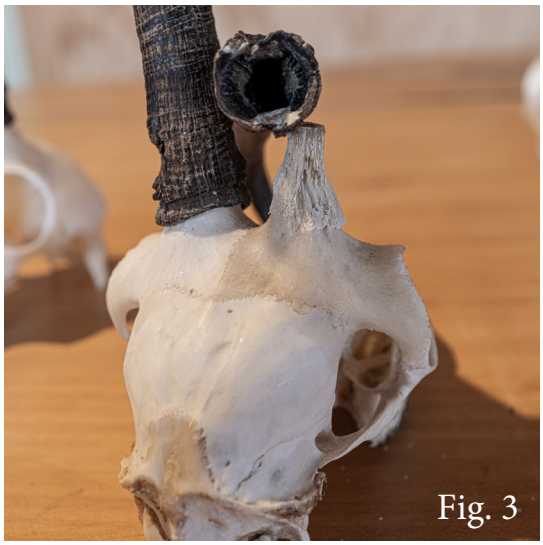
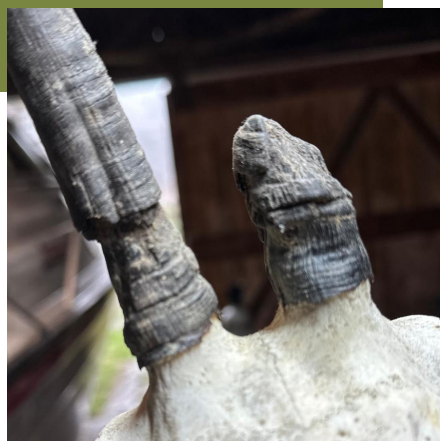


Fig. 3

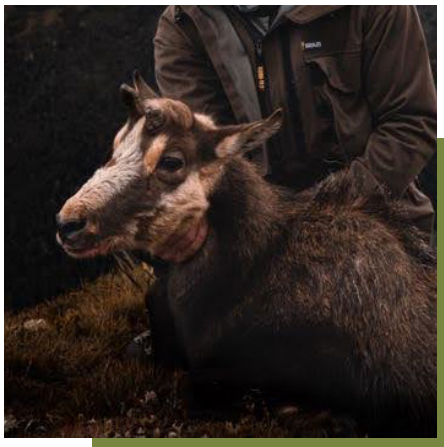
CHAMOIS HUNTERS REPRESENT THE FOUNDATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS RESEARCH.

THANKS TO THEIR EXPERIENCE AND TIME SPENT IN THE FIELD IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH CHAMOIS, THEY CAN PROVIDE INFORMATION THAT WILL HELP US BETTER UNDERSTAND THE EXISTENCE AND DYNAMICS OF THE HORN ROT PHENOMENON.

PARTICIPANTS ARE ASKED TO COMPLETE A DIGITAL FORM AND, WHEN POSSIBLE, TO CONTRIBUTE WITH PHOTOS AND VIDEOS.



IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THE CONSTANT PRESENCE OF A DEGENERATIVE FORM OF HORN TISSUE, RATHER THAN A SIMPLE CLEAN **FRACTURE** WITHOUT SIGNS OF DEFORMATION OF THE ORIGINAL HORN STRUCTURE.



*The photos show chamois harvested in the alpine territory of New Zealand and France.

GUIDE TO THE SURVEY

PART 1

First and last name

First name

Last name

Email *

example@example.com

You want to report information on

- a hunted chamois
- a chamois found dead
- a chamois trophy in your possession
- a sighting (but only if accompanied by photographic documentation)

In the first part of the questionnaire, you will be asked to provide personal data and specify the type of observation documented.

PART 2

Sex of the chamois

- Male
- Female
- Unspecified

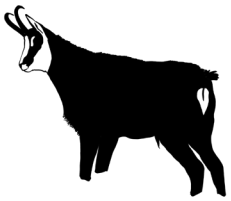
Age of the chamois

- Young
- Adult
- Old
- Unspecified
- Other

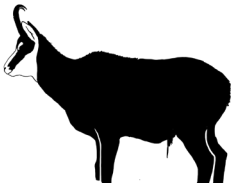
Sex of the chamois: Specify whether it is a male or female specimen; in case of doubt, select undetermined.

Age of the chamois: Indicate the age according to the following categories (in case of doubt, select undetermined):

0-3 years old
YOUNG

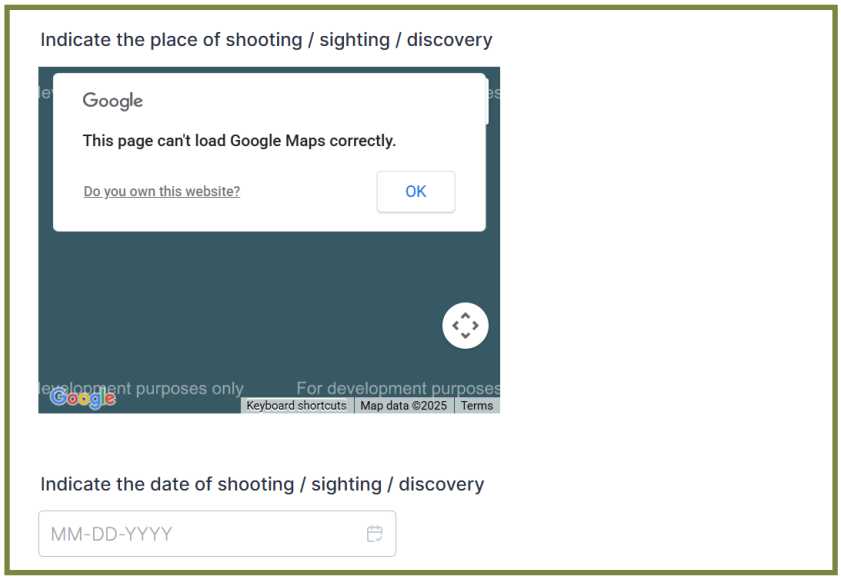


4-10 years old
ADULT



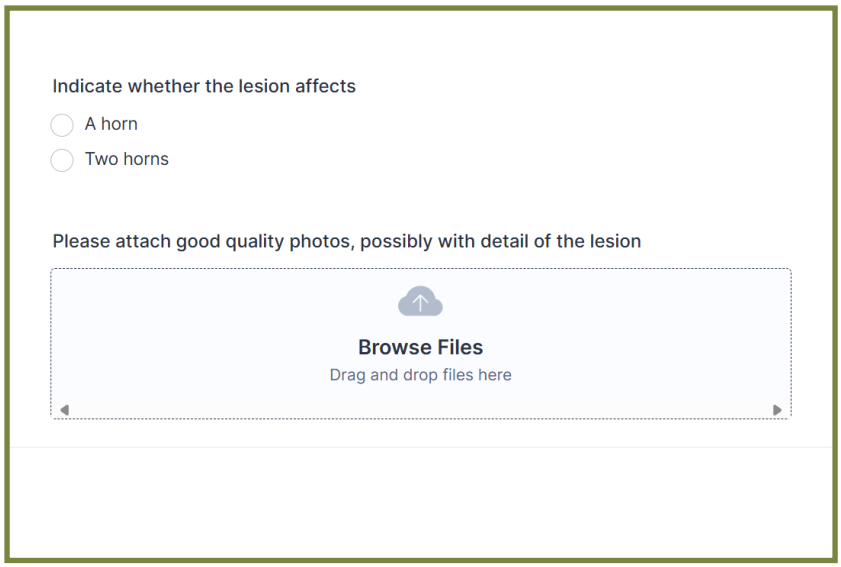
> 10 years old
OLD

PART 3



In this section, information regarding the location of discovery, harvesting, and sighting of the chamois is fundamental to identify a possible area where the pathology may have developed or was present. The date associated with each case is equally important, as it allows placing the event in a temporal context, facilitating possible correlations with specific climatic conditions.

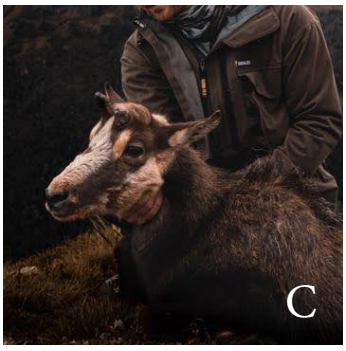
PART 4



The photographs submitted should illustrate as accurately as possible the lesions present on the horns, allowing a detailed analysis of the nature of the degeneration. It is recommended to include, if possible, a close-up shot of the back of the horn and a lateral view (photos A-B), in order to offer a complete perspective that allows for a comprehensive evaluation of the lesion. The bottom right photo (photo C) shows a chamois with abnormal horns; since the image does not allow for a clear understanding of the nature of the lesion, the condition is attributed to a possible traumatism.

✓

✓



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THE RESEARCH TEAM

Pier Giuseppe Meneguz

Research doctor, he graduated in Veterinary Medicine in 1979. He practiced as a freelance professional in wildlife management until 1996, learning the "trade" that he later taught at the University of Turin where he was a professor of Wildlife Resource Management and Strategies and Tools for Wildlife Planning until 2024. Author of numerous scientific publications, selective hunter, he has always cultivated an interest in all forms of wildlife use as a renewable natural resource.

Luca Rossi

Until October 2024, he was a Full Professor at the Department of Veterinary Sciences of the University of Turin, teaching courses in Veterinary Parasitology, Parasitic Diseases of Animals, Ecopathology, and Wildlife Health Management. His research has particularly focused on communicable diseases of mountain ungulates, with an approach from the "field" to molecular epidemiology; his preferred study model has been and remains sarcoptic mange in free-ranging Caprinae. During his long academic career, he has been a consultant for the OIE, Anses, and other conservation agencies on issues related to communicable diseases of wildlife. He was co-president and is currently secretary of GEEFSM (Groupe d'Etudes sur l'Ecopathologie de la Faune Sauvage de Montagne), a dynamic association committed to promoting interdisciplinary research on health and conservation of wildlife in mountain contexts. He is still a member of the IUCN Caprinae Specialist Group.

Paolo Tizzani

Contract Professor at the Department of Veterinary Sciences of the University of Turin. Paolo's research activity particularly focuses on disease dynamics in wild ungulates. Paolo has conducted studies both at the national (Italy) and international (Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas) level, on the interaction between pathogens, wildlife, and the environment. Among his most recent research works, noteworthy is the study entitled "Epidemiological approach to nematode polyparasitism in a multi-host scenario of sympatric wild ruminants," recently published in the Journal of Helminthology.

Francesco Formisano

Veterinary surgeon specializing in large animals. He is co-owner of a clinic in a rural area of France, focused on farm livestock. Originally from Italy, Francesco earned his Master's degree in Veterinary Sciences from the University of Turin. His thesis, entitled "Contribution on the causes of mortality in wild ungulates in North-West Italy," involved performing 600 autopsies on wild ungulates from the Italian Alps to determine their most frequent and lethal pathologies. Today, his professional interests and personal passion for sustainable hunting and conservation merge, culminating in a move to New Zealand to hunt and study the Himalayan Tahr under the "Altitude and Trails" project – a collaborative and educational initiative on hunting-related life, started by Francesco in 2017. Recognizing the potential contribution of hunters as citizen science, Francesco co-founded the Pink Eye Project together with Luca Rossi and Paolo Tizzani to explore and discover new approaches for better management of mountain ungulates.

Barbara Moroni

Veterinary researcher at the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale del Piemonte, Liguria e Valle d'Aosta (Turin, Italy) and her main research interests include parasite epidemiology and wildlife ecopathology. She obtained her PhD from the Department of Veterinary Sciences at the University of Turin (Italy) with a thesis on sarcoptic mange in European wildlife. Her passion for wildlife parasitology began during her post-graduate internship in Finland, where she spent a year conducting research on gastrointestinal parasites in reindeer, after completing her Master's degree in Veterinary Medicine.