

# Noticed Poor Body Condition? Take a look at these areas...



- Examine the ribs and the hips of the caribou
  - How visible are these structures?
- Briefly scan the whole body of the caribou with focus on the head, legs/hooves, and hair coat
  - Are there any abnormalities there?

# Noticed Limping? Take a look at these areas...



- When the caribou is standing still
  - Is the weight evenly distributed?
- When the caribou is moving
  - Is the caribou taking very long or short steps?
  - Is there head bobbing when walking or running?
    - The foot that lands while the head is up is most likely the foot causing the limping

# Notice Something Strange around the Head? Take a look at these areas...



- Is there trouble feeding?
- Closely examine the mouth
  - Are there scabs around the lips?
- What is the body condition of the animal?
- Closely examine the head
  - Are there any bumps, scabs, or wounds?
  - Are the antlers broken or uneven?

# Notice Changes in the Hair Coat? Take a look at these areas...



- Scan the whole caribou
- Is the caribou losing hair?
- Is the skin bumpy or scarred?
- Are there warbles visible under the coat?





# Warbles

## Signs:

- Thin and weak animals
- Bumps on the back of the animal that are oval shaped and approximately one inch wide
- Warble larva are about 1 inch long and are a pale yellow to white colour

## Background Information:

- Parasitic larva of the warble fly
- Eggs are laid on the hairs of the leg and lower body
- Larva hatch and enter into the skin of caribou and travel to the back of the caribou



Images on right show warble infection under coat indicated by yellow arrows; images on left show adult warble fly and larva







# Hoof rot

## Signs:

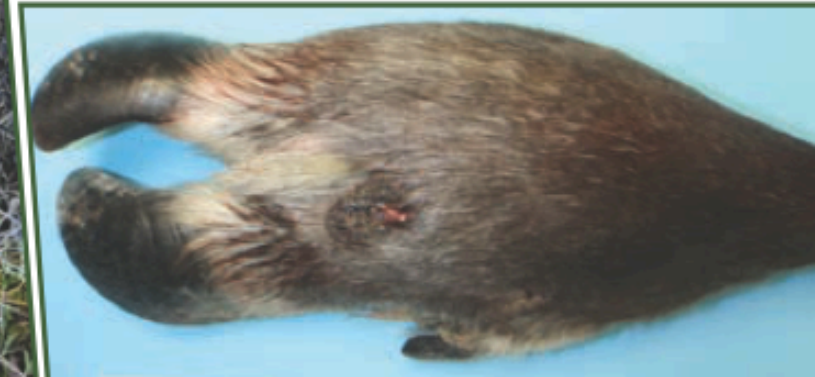
- Look for limping and lameness
- Lower leg/hoof swelling
- Accumulation of pus in the foot that can spread up the leg

## Things to Note

- Which foot is swollen or injured?

## Background Information:

- Caused by bacteria or infected injury
- Bacterial infection can spread past the foot and can infect internal organs



Images show swollen lower legs and hooves. Yellow arrows indicate areas of swelling.





# Besnoitiosis

## Signs:

- Loss of hair on lower legs and face
- Poor body condition
- Decreased mobility and resistance to movement
- Unusual antler growth – associated with broken antlers and velvet retention
- A cause of infertility

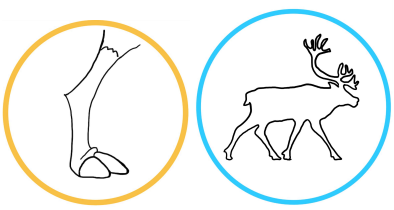
## Background Information:

- Caused by the parasite *Besnoitia tarandi*
- Infection rates are higher in male animals

Top image and bottom right image show loss of facial hair and swollen face; bottom left image shows unusual antler growth.







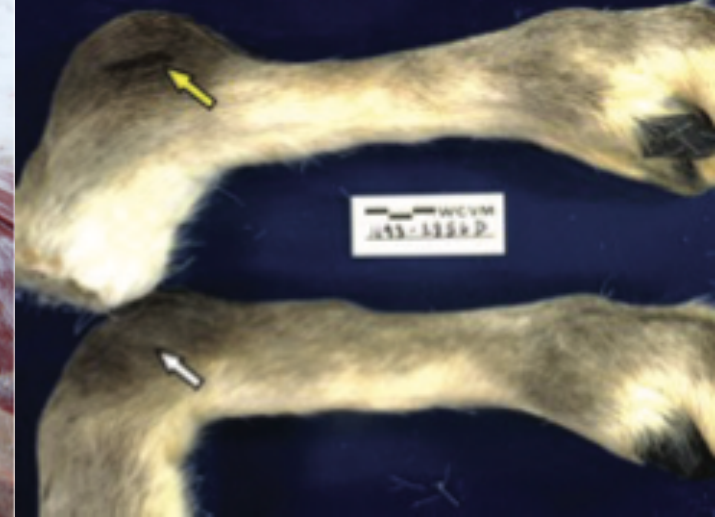
# Brucellosis

## Signs:

- Mainly affects the joints and the reproductive system
- Swollen joints causing limping and lameness
- Swollen scrotum
- Seen in caribous that move slower than the rest of the herd

## Background Information:

- Caused by the bacteria *Brucella suis* biovar 4
- Infection can stay dormant until the animal is stressed or reproducing
- Low birth weight of calves if they survive pregnancy



Top and bottom left show swollen scrotum and testicles  
Top and bottom on the right show swollen joints caused by Brucellosis



# Poor Body Condition

Poor body condition can sometimes be caused by **stomach worms** that prevents proper digestion of nutrients resulting in thinner caribou.



Image of the left shows a caribou in poor body condition; image on the right shows the stomach worm, indicated by the yellow arrow.

Left: a diagram showing life cycle of stomach worms. Adult worms live in caribou stomach. Worm eggs are passed in caribou feces where they develop and are accidentally eaten by caribou.