

Project Update: July 2011

- (1) During 2010, we studied diseases in a total of five red deer from surrounding areas of Los Alerces National Park. Pathological finding was found in one red deer that showed fasciolosis and also a focal necrotizing caseous lesion on mesenteric lymph nodes, probably caused by *Corynebacterium* sp. (further laboratory analysis required). Three out of five red deer necropsied showed *Sarcocystis* sp. on skeletal muscle, a parasitological disease associated with myocarditis.
- (2) We also had the opportunity to necropsied two native deer pudúes (*Pudu puda*), found accidentally dead at the Nahuel Huapi National Park. One pudú showed *Cysticercus* sp., a taenia parasite that has ungulates as intermediate host and carnivores as definitive host. Interesting finding to study associations between wild ungulates and feral dogs in Patagonian national parks. Genetic analysis are been carried out to identify the *Cysticercus*.
- (3) At the Lanin National Park (LNP) we got samples from three red deer and two wild boar hunted as part of the management programme to control exotic ungulates population in this national park. Unfortunately, we could not increase the number of samples due to the difficulty of accessing the carcass on hunting sites of the national park (remote mountain areas). We are working on this issue with LNP's staff and park-rangers and additional workshop training will be performed in August 2011.
- (4) From March 2011 to present, we are monitoring the red deer and wild boar movements and use of habitat by camera traps installed at the LNP (study area Tromen). This work is being carried out together with the biologist Nicolas Ferreyra (RSG 2010). We are keen to study the presence of red deer and wild boar in this area to understand: (1) their impact on different types of vegetation (native forest and native grassland); and (2) their movements in relation of diseases widespread.



