CORRIGENDUM

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Asymptomatic deer excrete infectious prions in faeces

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In this Letter, there was an error in the calculation of infectious doses. The correct sentence should read: Assuming a constant infectious dose of 0 log ID₅₀ units in 3 mg of faeces (equivalent to 2.5 log ID₅₀ units per gram of wet faeces), the cumulative total dose of prions shed during a 10-month period based on 780 g wet weight of faeces produced per day²⁵ is 7.9 log ID₅₀ units, which is similar to 7.8–9.3 log ID₅₀ units found in brains of terminally sick mule deer, assuming an average brain weight of 200 g. Because the estimated values in faeces and deer brain are both \sim 1,000-fold lower than originally published, this error does not affect the overall conclusions of the paper.

It is noteworthy that mule deer brain samples were bioassayed in Tg(ElkPrP) mice by inoculation of 30 μl of a 1% (w/v) homogenate, and faecal samples by inoculation of 30 μl of a 14% (w/v) homogenate. The resulting ID $_{50}$ units in brain and faecal homogenates were normalized to reflect the ID $_{50}$ units in 30 μl of 10% brain and 10% faecal homogenates to facilitate comparisons (see Supplementary Information associated with original manuscript).

 Arthur, W. J. & Alldredge, A. W. Seasonal estimates of masses of mule deer fecal pellets and pellet groups. J. Wildl. Mgmt 44, 750–752 (1980).