

What Should Hunters Do?

Pennsylvania hunters harvesting a deer in any of our neighboring states, and from any of the 27 states where CWD has been detected, are not permitted to bring back the whole deer carcass. If tests show that the animal has CWD, you should not dispose of the venison in the woods. Contact that state's wildlife agency and find out what you need to do to dispose of infected meat or tissue.

Finally, be aware that you can't always look at a deer that has CWD and determine that the deer has the disease. If you suspect a deer that you have harvested is sick, you should have it tested. If you harvest a deer in an area known to have CWD, DEFINITELY get it tested.

Chronic Wasting Disease for deer and elk in Pennsylvania is a reality. It is here. Until a cure is found, it is critical that hunters treat this disease as the serious problem that it has become.

Regardless of where you harvested your deer, testing is available. If your deer was harvested in a DMA, **FREE TESTING** is available. Visit www.padls.org for information.

If you harvest a deer within a DMA in PA, proceed with these options in handling high-risk parts:

1. Deposit the head of your deer into any CWD Collection Container. The harvest tag must be filled out completely, legibly, and attached to the deer's ear. The head must be placed in a plastic garbage bag and sealed before being placed in a collection bin. You will be notified of test results. Skulls and antlers will not be returned.



2. Take your deer to any processor or taxidermist located within the DMA. You may also take your deer to any processor, taxidermist or disposal site that is approved for that DMA.

3. If you live within the DMA where your deer was harvested, you may take the deer home to process. Double bag the high-risk parts and set them out for a commercial refuse pickup. You may bone out or quarter the deer at the site, leaving the high-risk parts, except the head, in the field. The head must be packed out with the meat but must remain in the DMA from which the animal was harvested.

Clean knives and processing equipment immediately by soaking them for 5-10 minutes in a 40/60 bleach and water bath.

The head should be deposited in a **FREE TESTING** collection bin, or left in a high-risk parts dumpster, or double bagged and disposed of with commercial refuse within the DMA.

ACSL is working to cure CWD.

The Allegheny County Sportsmen's League is funding and supporting the North American CWD Project.

The NACWDP is working towards finding a cure for Chronic Wasting Disease. Visit the North American CWD Project website for more information.

www.northamericancwdproject.org



CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

What You Need To Know



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The Allegheny County Sportsmen's League

Organized in 1921 Incorporated in 1933
*Fighting for Liberty, Conservation, Wildlife,
And our Natural Resources Since 1921*

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CWD is “an ecological disaster unfolding before our eyes.”

-Bryan Burhans

Executive Director of the Pennsylvania
Game Commission



Chronic Wasting Disease, CWD, is a highly contagious disease that affects deer, elk, and Moose. CWD is always fatal. Pennsylvania is one of a number of states where the disease has been found with in the deer herd. Although there are no known cases of humans contracting the disease, eating meat contaminated with CWD poses a possible health risk.

What to look for?

If you come across a deer that is emaciated, has a lack of muscle coordination, seems to have difficulty swallowing, is salivating excessively, seems to have excessive thirst, urinates frequently, displays a loss of fear of people and is acting strangely, there is a strong possibility that the animal has the disease.

Why Does CWD Occur?

The cause of CWD in deer and other animals is the subject of numerous studies.

CWD is one of several diseases that have been traditionally believed to be caused by an abnormal prion (mis-folded protein) in the brain. CWD in infected deer, elk and other cervids is similar to Mad Cow Disease in cattle and Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease in humans. Unlike mad cow disease, where the contagion is contained in certain parts and fluids of the animal, CWD can be found in most parts of the deer.

In scientific studies, certain Primates fed venison infected with CWD, or who came in contact with brain or bodily fluids from infected deer or elk, contracted the disease. This should be a concern for people, especially those who are hunting in areas known to have confirmed cases of CWD.

What Should Hunters Avoid?

Hunters in areas where CWD is known to be present should avoid:

- Shooting and handling deer or elk that look sick or act strangely
- Eating meat from deer or elk that appear to be sick or test positive for CWD
- Eating deer that are found dead (road kill)
- Eating deer or elk tissue where the CWD agent is highly concentrated--brain, spinal cord, tonsils, lymph nodes, eyes and spleen.



Areas in Pennsylvania with confirmed cases of CWD.

There are two things hunters can do to help stop the spread of CWD in Pennsylvania.

First, you need to know if the disease is present in the area where you hunt.

There are three areas in Pennsylvania designated as Disease Management Areas (DMAs). The disease has been found in those areas. If you harvest any deer in one of those areas, you may not transport the whole carcass of that deer out of that DMA. Consult your Pennsylvania Hunter / Trapper Guide Book for the most recent DMA boundaries.

Second, if you hunt in an area not currently identified as having CWD, and you see or shoot a deer behaving strangely or looking sick...or if you find the carcass of a deer that appears to have died from an illness, report it to the PA Game Commission as soon as possible.

