



CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

A Continuing Threat to White-Tailed Deer

DEER HUNTERS — TAXIDERMISTS — DEER PROCESSORS

Whether you wait all year to hunt white-tails in the fall, make your living perfecting lifelike mounts or earn extra cash by cutting up deer, you have a stake in keeping New York State's deer herd free from chronic wasting disease (CWD).

THE FACTS

Knowing the facts of this threatening disease and taking appropriate actions to prevent and detect its presence in New York State is vital in keeping our deer populations healthy.

CWD is fatal to deer.

Once a deer is infected, it will die.

CWD may negatively impact deer populations.

In one hunting area of Wyoming, half of adult male mule deer are infected, and mule deer populations have declined by more than 50 percent during the last decade.

CWD decreases deer life expectancy.

In Colorado, CWD-infected mule deer live just 1.6 years versus 5.2 years for uninfected animals.

CWD spreads geographically, and its prevalence increases with time.

In Wisconsin, CWD was first detected in white-tailed deer in 2002. Now, 18-22 percent of adult males and 7 percent of adult females in that population are infected.

CWD is transmitted both by deer-to-deer contact and through contaminated environments.

Prions, the infectious agent of CWD, are present in many tissues and are shed in feces, urine and saliva. They can bind to soil particles and remain infectious in the environment for many years. The disease is nearly impossible to eradicate once it becomes established on the landscape.

CWD-infected deer may not appear sick.

CWD has a prolonged incubation period, with infected deer shedding prions for months prior to appearing ill.



PREVENTION AND DETECTION

No cases of CWD have been detected in New York State since 2005, but cases have been discovered in multiple other states in the past year. The best approach for protecting New York's deer is to keep infectious material out of the state.

Actions *You* Can Take

Follow CWD regulations (6 NYCRR Part 189)

www.dec.ny.gov/regs/3926.html

Don't bring prohibited parts of deer from CWD states/provinces into New York.

CWD-positive states/provinces/territories:

Alberta, Canada; Colorado; Illinois; Iowa; Kansas; Maryland; Michigan; Minnesota; Missouri; Montana; Nebraska; New Mexico; North Dakota; Oklahoma; Pennsylvania; Saskatchewan, Canada; South Dakota; Texas; Utah; Virginia; West Virginia; Wisconsin; and Wyoming.

Prohibited parts:

- Head:
 - Brain
 - Tonsils
 - Eyes
 - Lymph nodes in the neck
- Spinal Cord/Backbone
- Spleen
- Intestinal tract

The recommended practice for removing these parts is to debone the animal

Don't ship or import an intact trophy head.

If you take a trophy animal in another state and plan to have the head mounted in New York State, consult a taxidermist or the CWD regulations to find out how to safely prepare the cape for shipment.

Don't feed wild deer in New York State.

Feeding artificially concentrates animals in one location for extended periods of time, increasing the likelihood for diseases to spread.

Dispose of carcasses properly.

Dispose of deer carcasses in a municipal landfill to help prevent environmental contamination.

Report violators.

Taxidermists and deer processors are the frontline for detecting possible importation of CWD infected material. If you discover that carcasses or parts of deer, elk or moose were brought into New York illegally, call an environmental conservation officer.

Report sick deer or deer behaving abnormally.

Contact your nearest NYSDEC regional wildlife office or environmental conservation officer to report such a deer's location.

Actions *NYSDEC* Is Taking

Annually, NYSDEC collects and tests hunter-harvested deer for CWD.

NYSDEC responds to reports of sick wild deer and tests them for CWD.

NYSDEC enforces regulations to prevent importation and illegal disposal of potentially infected CWD material.

NYSDEC shares information on CWD with stakeholders.

Contact Information

NYSDEC Regional Wildlife Office
www.dec.ny.gov/about/50230.html

Environmental Conservation Officer
General Dispatch
1-877-457-5680