

WHAT PRECAUTIONS SHOULD I TAKE?

Hunters should wear gloves while field dressing. Thoroughly clean hands and processing tools with soap and hot water; spray all surfaces with a bleach solution (two parts household bleach and three parts water) and allow to air dry. Then rinse with fresh water.

WHERE CAN I HAVE MY ANIMAL TESTED?

Deer harvested in or near areas with known CWD detections can be submitted for **FREE TESTING** at head collection bins.

Hunters can also submit harvested deer to the Pennsylvania Animal Diagnostic Laboratory System to be tested for CWD for a fee. A submission form can be found at padls.agriculture.pa.gov.

WHAT IF I'M HUNTING IN AN AREA WHERE CWD EXISTS

- » Know the regulations on disposal of harvested game.
- » Minimize cutting through and handling of brain and spinal tissues.
- » Dispose of high-risk parts properly.
- » High-risk parts should stay on the landscape at the site of harvest, be disposed of with commercial trash, or be taken to a processor or taxidermist.
- » Ask your butcher to process your meat separately from other animals or process your own meat.
- » Have your animal tested and wait to receive test results.
- » Do not consume animals that test positive for CWD.

CALL US AT
1-833-PGC-WILD

VISIT US ONLINE AT PA.GOV/PGC

YOU CAN HELP

- » **DON'T FEED DEER**
It brings wildlife close together, which increases the risk of spreading disease.
- » **REPORT SICK DEER**
to the Pennsylvania Game Commission; OR if you have the opportunity and license to legally harvest the animal, please do so. Then contact the Pennsylvania Game Commission to surrender the deer for testing and receive a replacement harvest tag.
- » **HARVEST DEER**
Hunters play a key role in wildlife and disease management. Reducing deer numbers in areas with CWD limits contact between deer and removes infected animals.
- » **SUBMIT FOR TESTING**
Make an informed decision about consuming your harvest. Because much is still unknown about CWD, limiting exposure of all species to CWD is very important.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission manages wildlife for and in cooperation with the public. Protecting deer and elk from CWD in Pennsylvania requires a long-term commitment from the agency and all who care about wildlife.



Pennsylvania
Game Commission



WHAT IS CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE?

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is an untreatable, fatal brain disease caused by a misfolded protein known as a prion. It's a threat to deer and elk in Pennsylvania, and there's no known cure. It's similar to scrapie in sheep, mad cow disease in cattle, and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans.

HOW DOES CWD SPREAD?

CWD can spread through direct animal-to-animal contact or indirectly through contaminated environments. CWD-infected animals shed prions through saliva, urine, and feces. Infected carcasses contribute to environmental contamination.

Research has shown that CWD can pass through the digestive tract of scavengers and predators and remain infectious. Plants, soils, and water sources can be contaminated and remain infectious.

WHAT IS BEING DONE?

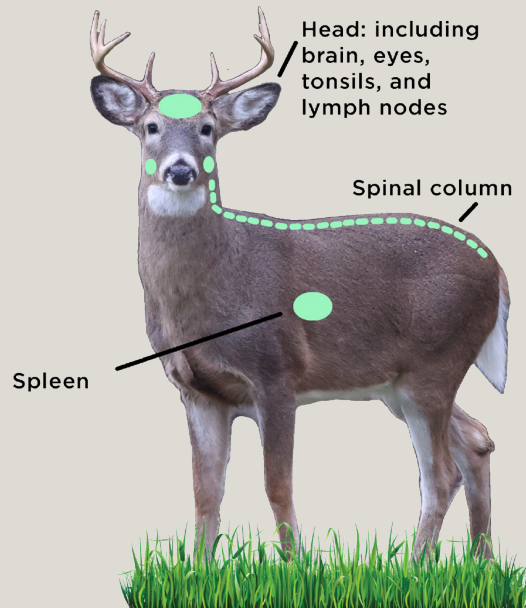
The Pennsylvania Game Commission was created to protect wildlife resources and has established regulations to reduce the risks associated with CWD. Surveillance for CWD began in Pennsylvania in 1998, and thousands of samples are tested annually to help us understand more about the disease.

WHERE HAS CWD BEEN FOUND

As of 2026, Disease Management Area boundaries no longer define CWD management actions in Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania Game Commission now manages CWD at the wildlife management unit level. A current map of WMUs where CWD has been detected is available on our website.

HIGH RISK PARTS

CWD-INFECTED ANIMALS MAY NOT SHOW SIGNS OF THE DISEASE FOR 18 TO 24 MONTHS. TESTING IS NEEDED TO KNOW IF A DEER HAS CWD.



COOPERATING PROCESSORS & TAXIDERMISTS

Cooperating processors and taxidermists provide the Pennsylvania Game Commission access to collect samples for CWD testing and other biological data.

However, using a cooperator does not guarantee your deer will be tested. To ensure testing, hunters must submit their deer. Free testing is available in areas with known CWD detections through Pennsylvania Game Commission head collection bins.



CWD REGULATIONS

Statewide restrictions on the disposal of high-risk carcass parts help limit the spread of CWD.

- » High-risk parts cannot be disposed of on the landscape away from the site of harvest.
- » Hunters may transport their deer home or to any processor. If home processed, all high-risk parts must be disposed of with a commercial trash service. This applies to deer transported into Pennsylvania from any other state or country.
- » Regulations allow the Pennsylvania Game Commission to prohibit the feeding of deer in specified areas to address CWD threats.

CWD QUESTIONS
1-833-INFOCWD
INFOCWD@PA.GOV

SCAN OR VISIT [PA.GOV/CWD](https://pa.gov/cwd)
TO REVIEW CURRENT
REGULATIONS, FIND A HEAD
COLLECTION BIN, AND LEARN MORE

