

### 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 (2 parts household bleach + 3 parts water) and allow to air dry. Then rinse with fresh water.

### Where can I have my animal tested?

Deer harvested within Disease Management Areas (DMAs) and Established Areas (EAs) can be submitted for **FREE TESTING**. Locations of head collection bins are listed under “Head Bins & Dumpsters” tab found at: [www.arcg.is/1G4TLr](http://www.arcg.is/1G4TLr).

Hunters can also submit harvested deer to the Pennsylvania Animal Diagnostic Laboratory System to be tested for CWD for a fee. A Chronic Wasting Disease Submission Form can be found at [www.padls.agriculture.pa.gov](http://www.padls.agriculture.pa.gov).

### What if I am hunting in an area where CWD is known to exist?

- Know the regulations on the movement of harvested game where you are hunting.
- Minimize cutting through and handling of brain and spinal tissues.
- Dispose of high-risk parts properly.  
*Within a DMA or EA, high-risk parts should stay on the landscape at the site of harvest, be disposed of with commercial trash within the DMA or EA, or be taken directly to a Pennsylvania Game Commission-approved cooperator.*
- Ask your butcher to process your meat separate 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.

### YOU CAN HELP!

- **DON'T FEED or USE ATTRACTANTS.** These bring wildlife close together, which increases the risk of spreading disease.
- **REPORT SICK DEER** to the Pennsylvania Game Commission; OR if you are hunting and have the opportunity and license to harvest the animal, please do so. Then contact the 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.



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**PA.GOV/PGC**



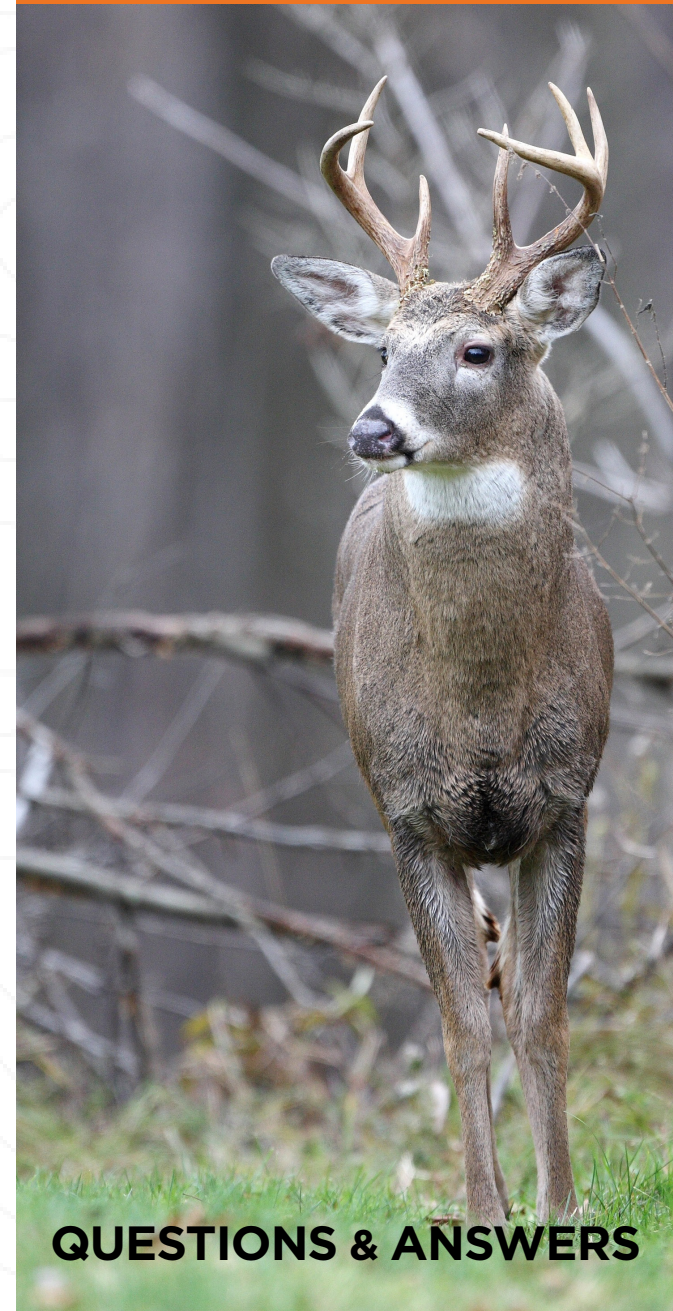
*Managing and protecting wildlife and their habitats  
while promoting hunting and trapping  
for current and future generations.*

Feb 2025



# CWD

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE



## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

## What is Chronic Wasting Disease?

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is an untreatable, always fatal brain disease caused by a misshapen protein known as a prion. There is no known cure. It affects members of the deer family and is a threat to deer and elk in Pennsylvania. It is 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.

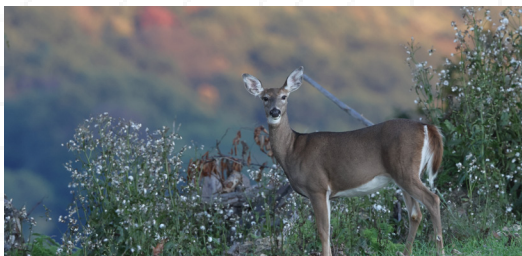
Research has shown that CWD can pass through the digestive tract of scavengers and predators and remain infectious. Plants can uptake CWD prions and remain infectious. Soils retain infectious CWD prions for years. Water sources can also be contaminated with CWD prions.

## 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?

Visit [arcg.is/1G4TLr](http://arcg.is/1G4TLr) for a current map and the most up-to-date information.



## CERVID PARTS MOVEMENT RESTRICTIONS

To help limit the spread of CWD, there are restrictions on the movement of high-risk carcass parts.

- High-risk parts cannot be removed from any Disease Management Area (DMA) or imported from out of state **unless going directly to a Pennsylvania Game Commission-approved cooperator.**
- Within a DMA, **high-risk parts cannot be disposed of on the landscape away from the site of harvest.**
- Transport of high-risk parts may occur if they are taken directly to a Pennsylvania Game Commission-approved cooperator **OR** are disposed of with commercial trash service **within the DMA in which the deer was harvested.**

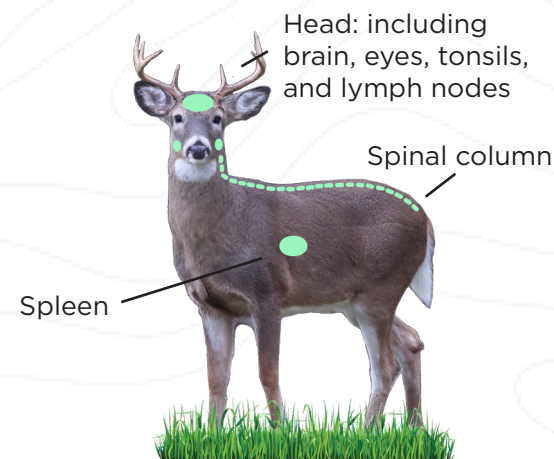
## CERVID PARTS WHICH MAY BE TRANSPORTED INTO AND WITHIN PENNSYLVANIA

- Meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached;
- Cleaned hides without the head;
- Skull plates and/or antlers cleaned of all brain tissue;
- Upper canine teeth without soft tissue; and
- Finished taxidermy mounts.

## GAME COMMISSION-APPROVED COOPERATING PROCESSORS AND TAXIDERMISTS

Pennsylvania Game Commission-approved cooperators can be found on our website beginning each autumn. Visit [pa.gov/pgc](http://pa.gov/pgc) and click the "CWD Interactive Map" link located in the Resources box.

## HIGH-RISK PARTS



## Which deer has CWD?



It could be both. **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.

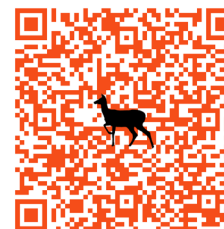
## CONTACT US

### CWD Questions

1-833-INFOCWD

[infocwd@pa.gov](mailto:infocwd@pa.gov)

[www.arcg.is/1G4TLr](http://www.arcg.is/1G4TLr)



### All Other Calls

1-833-PGC-HUNT

(1-833-742-4868)

or

1-833-PGC-WILD

(1-833-742-9453)