

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

Best Management Practices



Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a neurodegenerative disease found in most deer species, including white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, red deer, moose and caribou. It is transmissible, always fatal, environmentally persistent, and there is no known treatment. Efforts to reduce transmission are based on the best science available. Guidance may be adjusted in the future due to new and emerging research. The LDWF CWD webpage covers some of the items below in greater detail: www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/cwd



PREVENTION OF CWD INTRODUCTION

- Prohibition on the importation of live/captive deer. The movement of live deer across state lines is prohibited in Louisiana.
- Deer carcass import regulations. It is illegal to transport deer carcasses from other states into Louisiana except for approved parts. CWD positive deer carcasses disposed of in new areas contaminate environments and serve as locations for future exposure to the disease. CWD has been shown to persist in the environment years after introduction.
- Deer carcass export regulations. CWD Control Area regulations in Louisiana prohibit the movement of deer carcasses out of a CWD Control Area except for approved parts.
- Proper disposal of deer carcasses may aid in limiting further disease spread. Deep burial (6 feet or more), leave at the site of harvest, and double bag unused parts before sending to an approved landfill are recommended options.
- Natural Deer Urine regulations. Only natural deer urine labeled as "CWD Not Detected" and ATA certified is allowed.

ARTIFICIAL CONGREGATION AND CWD TRANSMISSION

- Supplemental feeding, baiting and mineral licks for deer are not recommended. In addition, the activities are restricted within CWD Control Areas. Feeding artificially congregates deer and increases contact rates between animals. Baiting also increases the likelihood of attracting CWD infected deer from infected areas into areas considered free of CWD. Due to the environmental persistence of the disease, mineral licks are documented environmental reservoirs for CWD.

SURVEILLANCE FOR CWD DETECTION

- Submission of samples from hunter harvested deer. Statewide surveillance is needed for early detection. This provides an opportunity for early disease mitigation and public awareness of disease presence. The deer head and 4 inches of neck are sufficient for sampling purposes.
- Reporting symptomatic deer. Learning the signs of CWD and reporting suspect deer will aid in disease detection. While symptoms may be shared by multiple diseases, diagnostic testing is the only way to confirm CWD. Contact the nearest LDWF Field Office or 1-800-442-2511.

GENERAL PRECAUTIONS AND HELPFUL TIPS

- Wear protective eyewear and gloves when cleaning and processing deer.
- Consider testing deer harvested in CWD endemic areas.
- While CWD has not been linked to human illness, the consumption of CWD positive deer is not recommended.
- Process and label packaged deer meat independently to ensure deer are not mixed.
- Thoroughly wash and clean any contaminated equipment. A 40% bleach solution for 5 minutes is recommended for knives and tools after washing.
- Avoid moving contaminated hunting equipment from CWD endemic areas to new areas.

Please visit the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries website for more information www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/cwd