

# PROPER CARCASS HANDLING TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF CWD



Louisiana has NOT detected Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) since testing began in 2002. Texas and Arkansas have detected CWD in multiple deer. Mississippi detected the disease in February 2018 in one deer harvested within 5 miles of Louisiana near Madison Parish. Due to the close proximity of the positive deer found in Mississippi, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries is recommending certain deer carcass handling practices to minimize the potential spread of CWD.



Ethical harvest extends beyond the take and demands responsible handling of deer carcasses and parts.

## PROPER CARCASS DISPOSAL

The carcass of an infected deer can expose other deer to the disease, directly or indirectly. Long after an infected carcass decomposes, the soil will remain infectious for years, possibly exposing other deer to the prions that cause CWD. To avoid this exposure risk, the following disposal methods are recommended:

- 1. Burial on site:** Whenever possible, deer carcasses should be buried on the property where the animal was harvested. Only approved parts (see FAQ) should be removed from the property where harvested. Burial should be deep enough to prevent scavengers from removing and displacing the remains.
- 2. Approved, lined landfills:** Infectious prions are highly unlikely to migrate out of an approved sanitary landfill and infect other deer. Carcasses and parts can be disposed of in household garbage that is hauled to a landfill via regular trash collection.
- 3. Leave in place:** If burial is not possible where the deer was harvested, the carcass may be left on-site. While this will not prevent scavengers from scattering potentially infectious parts, those parts will remain on the landscape where the deer was taken. If CWD is already present on that property, it will likely remain there and not be moved to another property where the disease does not occur.

## IMPROPER CARCASS DISPOSAL

- 1. Disposal in water:** Do not dispose of carcasses in ponds, lakes or waterways. This has the potential to spread infectious prions to areas previously uninfected.
- 2. Burning:** Only commercial incinerators are capable of generating enough heat for a long enough duration to destroy the prions.
- 3. Transport to another property:** Remains of harvested deer which are transported to a different property for processing should not be dumped on the landscape where it could infect the environment. Instead, the remains should be sent to a landfill. Burial on a different property is also acceptable if buried deep enough to prevent scavengers from reaching the buried material and exposing it to the environment, thus making the prion accessible to deer.



Please visit the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries website for more information [www.wlf.la.gov](http://www.wlf.la.gov)