

# WHAT'S GOING ON WITH CWD?

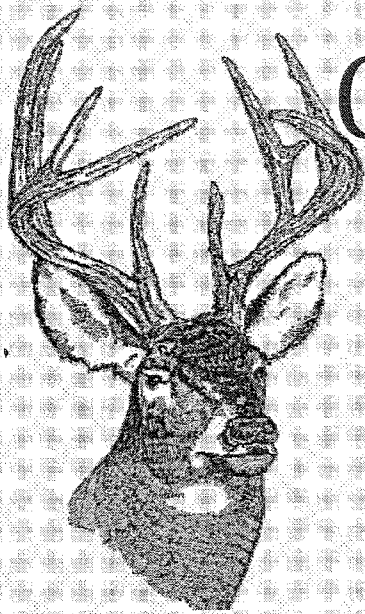
New York has tested over 37,000 deer for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in the last decade, with no additional cases found since 2005, **BUT** CWD remains a very real threat to our wild deer herd!

The discovery of CWD in Pennsylvania last fall is a reminder that we in New York must remain vigilant. No state has eliminated CWD once it became established; our best bet is **PREVENTION**.

## WHAT CAN I DO AS A HUNTER?

- Do not import an intact trophy head or whole deer carcass from outside New York. Finished mounts, cleaned capes, skull plates, antlers, and deboned meat are permitted.
- Don't use real deer urine for hunting. Prions (the infectious particle causing CWD) may be found in deer urine. The last thing you want to do is contaminate your hunting spot!
- Dispose of carcasses properly. Make sure they end up in a landfill where they can't contaminate the environment.
- Report sick or strange-acting deer to DEC. They are our best chance of finding the disease.
- Don't feed wild deer. It is illegal and concentrates animals unnaturally, making disease transmission easier.
- Follow all CWD regulations. Learn more at [www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov)  
key word: CWD





# 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.<sup>1</sup>

### **CWD decreases deer life expectancy.**

In Colorado, CWD-infected mule deer live on average just 1.6 years versus 5.2 years for uninfected animals.<sup>2</sup>

### **CWD spreads geographically, and its prevalence increases with time.**

In Wisconsin, CWD was first detected in white-tailed deer in 2002. Now, 18-22% of adult males and 7-10% of adult females in that population are infected.<sup>3</sup>

### **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 so prevention is key.

### **CWD-infected deer may not appear sick**

CWD has a prolonged incubation period, with infected deer shedding prions for months prior to appearing ill.<sup>4</sup>

# 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](http://www.dec.ny.gov/regs/3926.html)

- **Know the rules when importing hunted deer, elk or moose.**  
[www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8325.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8325.html)
- **Don't import an intact trophy head or intact deer carcass from outside New York.**

Certain parts, including the brain and some internal organs are a risk for transmitting the disease. Deboning meat will remove these parts. Consult a taxidermist for specific instructions on how to prepare a head for mounting and to be in compliance with the CWD regulations.

- **Don't use real deer urine. Prions are found in deer urine.**  
Most commercial deer urine is collected from captive deer farms. Choose synthetic alternatives to avoid potentially spreading CWD in your hunting area.
- **It is illegal to feed wild deer in New York State.**

### Dispose of carcasses properly.

Solid waste regulations (NYSDEC part 360, [www.dec.ny.gov/regs/4415.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/regs/4415.html)) require businesses to dispose of deer carcasses in a municipal landfill. Hunters can help by disposing of carcasses in a landfill to prevent environmental contamination.

### Report violators.

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](http://www.dec.ny.gov/about/50230.html)

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

## NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor

Joe Martens, Commissioner

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### References:

<sup>1</sup> Binfert J. 2009. *Job Completion Report: Mule Deer of South Converse, WY, Hunt Area 65*. pp. 177-182. Wyoming Game and Fish. [http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/article\\_8609ca5d-0450-5b5e-b8b6-4907ea837cde.html](http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/article_8609ca5d-0450-5b5e-b8b6-4907ea837cde.html)

<sup>2</sup> Miller M., et al. 2008. "Lions and Prions and Deer Demise." *Plos One* 3(12): e4019. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0004019

<sup>3</sup> <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/prevalence.html>

<sup>4</sup> Haley, N.J., et al. 2011. "Detection of Chronic Wasting Disease Prions in Salivary, Urinary, and Intestinal Tissues of Deer: Potential Mechanisms of Prion Shedding and Transmission." *J. Virology* 85:6309-6318. doi:10.1128/JVI.00425-11