



# CWD

## Where can I learn more?

Pennsylvania Game Commission  
[www.pgc.pa.gov/Wildlife/Wildlife-RelatedDiseases/Pages/ChronicWastingDisease](http://www.pgc.pa.gov/Wildlife/Wildlife-RelatedDiseases/Pages/ChronicWastingDisease)

PA Department of Agriculture  
[www.agriculture.pa.gov](http://www.agriculture.pa.gov)

Chronic Wasting Disease Alliance  
[www.cwd-info.org](http://www.cwd-info.org)

Center for Disease Control  
[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

World Health Organization  
[www.who.int/en](http://www.who.int/en)

## A deer exhibiting late-stage symptoms of CWD.



Dr. Mike Miller,  
CO Division of Wildlife

## PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

**State Headquarters**  
 2001 Elmerton Avenue  
 Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797  
 717-787-4250 [www.pgc.pa.gov](http://www.pgc.pa.gov)



### Region Offices

Northwest: 814-432-3187  
 Southwest: 724-238-9523  
 Northcentral: 570-398-4744  
 Southcentral: 814-643-1831  
 Northeast: 570-675-1143  
 Southeast: 610-926-3136



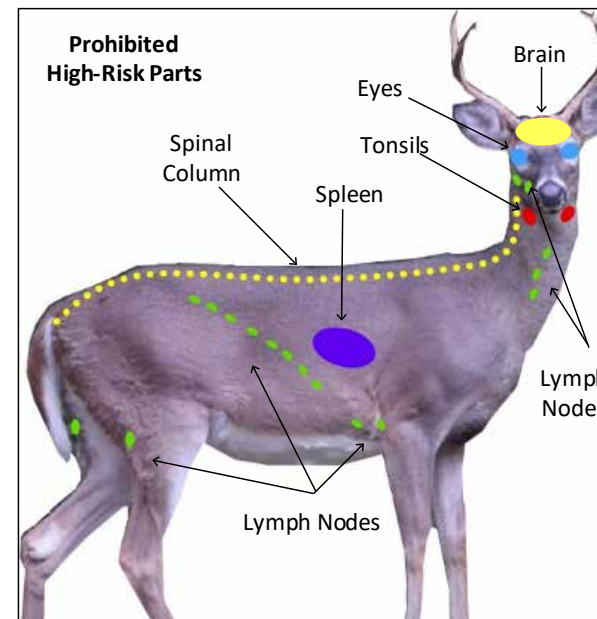
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*Questions and Answers about  
 Chronic Wasting Disease  
 in Pennsylvania.*

## CERVID PARTS IMPORTATION BAN

To help prevent CWD from being spread within the state, the Game Commission has banned the importation of specific carcass parts from states and Canadian provinces where CWD exists including any Disease Management Areas within the state. A list of states and provinces affected by the ban is available at <http://bit.ly/PGC-CWD> or by calling your Game Commission region office.



### Permitted Parts

Only the following parts of any deer, elk, or moose taken from any other state, province, or country within areas designated as positive for CWD may be imported into Pennsylvania.

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

## What is being done to manage CWD in Pennsylvania?

Several state and federal agencies, including the Game Commission, Pennsylvania departments of Agriculture (PDA), Health (PDH), and Environmental Protection (DEP), and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) completed a response plan which details methods of prevention, surveillance, and response designed to manage CWD. Activities designed to reduce the risks associated with this disease are ongoing. Surveillance for CWD and other diseases began in Pennsylvania in 1998 and will continue in order to understand the prevalence and distribution of the disease.

## What can I do to help?

Do not feed deer or elk. Supplemental feeding causes deer and elk to concentrate, which facilitates the spread of diseases like CWD. Express concerns about CWD to your political representatives. Support increased financial assistance for wildlife and agricultural agencies to combat CWD. Encourage officials at all levels of government to support the steps necessary to slow the spread of CWD across Pennsylvania. If you see a deer or elk displaying symptoms of CWD, report it to the appropriate Game Commission region office.

## Attention Processors & Taxidermists

If you are presented with deer, elk or moose body parts harvested in CWD-infected areas, please contact the nearest Game Commission region office for guidance. A Game Commission representative may collect tissue samples, discuss proper processing and disposal procedures, and provide information to hunters.

## What is Chronic Wasting Disease?

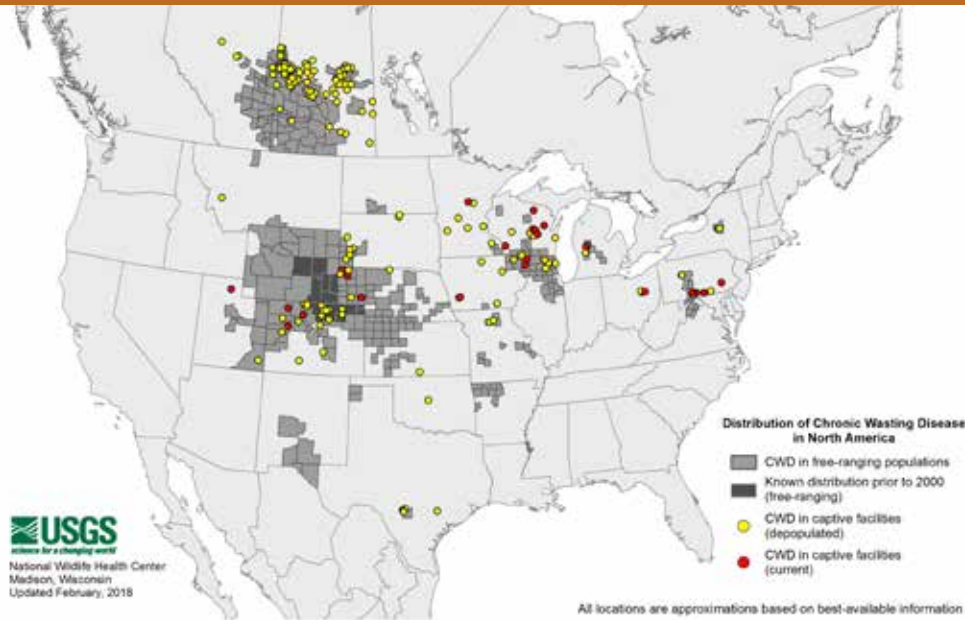
Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a member of the transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) family of diseases that includes Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) or Mad Cow Disease in cattle; Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) in humans; and Scrapie in sheep and goats. It was first recognized in Colorado deer in 1967. The specific cause of CWD is believed to be an abnormal prion that is found in the brain, the nervous system, and some lymphoid tissues of infected animals. It causes death of brain cells, and on a microscopic level, holes in the brain tissue.

## How is it spread?

CWD is transmitted both directly through animal-to-animal contact and indirectly through food and soil contaminated with bodily excretions including feces, urine and saliva. Contaminated carcasses or high-risk carcass parts may also spread the disease indirectly through environmental contamination, which lasts for years, if not decades.

## How can I tell if an animal has CWD?

Animals infected with CWD may not show signs of infection for 12 or more months. Late-stage symptoms of CWD-infected animals include an extreme loss of body condition; excessive drinking, urination, salivation and drooling; and behavioral and neurologic changes such as repetitive walking patterns, droopy ears, a wide-based stance, and listlessness. Some animals lose their fear of humans and predators. There is no known cure. It is important to note that these symptoms are characteristic of many diseases other than CWD. Confirming an animal is infected with CWD requires laboratory testing of the brain or lymph nodes of the head.



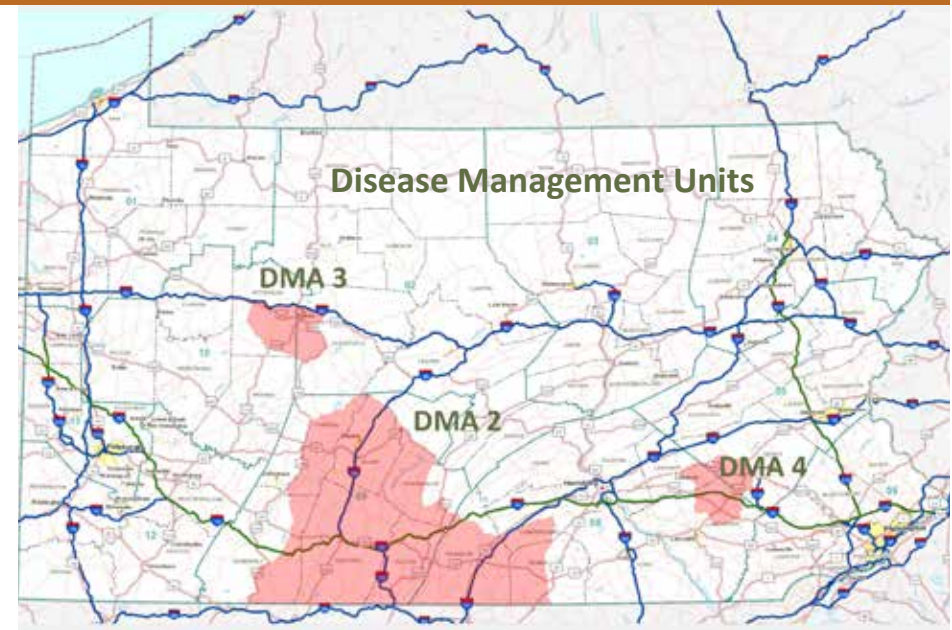
## Where has CWD been found?

In Pennsylvania, CWD has been detected in: Disease Management Area 1 (DMA 1) on a captive deer farm in Adams County during 2012 (DMA 1 has been eliminated); DMA 2 in multiple free-ranging deer in Bedford, Blair, Cambria, and Fulton counties from 2012 -2017, and captive deer farms in Bedford, Franklin, and Fulton counties during 2017; DMA 3 in two captive deer farms in Jefferson County during 2014 and a free-ranging deer in Clearfield County during 2017; DMA 4 in a captive deer at a facility in Lancaster County during 2018. In addition, CWD has been detected in wild or captive deer and/or elk in many other states and provinces.

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

Follow these guidelines to prevent the spread of the disease:

- Be familiar with the regulations and guidelines for the transportation of harvested game where you are hunting as well as the Pennsylvania Cervid Parts Importation Ban (see back panel).
- Bone out the meat from your animal.
- Minimize the handling of and cutting through brain and spinal tissues.
- Have your animal processed in the area in which it was harvested so high-risk parts can be disposed of properly. It is illegal to import high-risk parts into Pennsylvania from areas covered by the Cervid Parts Importation Ban or out of Disease Management Areas (DMAs) within Pennsylvania.
- Ask your butcher to process your meat individually, without meat from other animals; or process your own meat.
- Only bring low-risk parts back to Pennsylvania or out of a DMA.
- Have your animal tested and do not consume animals that test positive for CWD.
- Do not consume parts of any animal testing positive for CWD or displaying outward signs of disease.



## What precautions should hunters take?

Hunters should only harvest animals that appear healthy, and practice basic precautions like wearing gloves while field dressing an animal and washing hands and equipment thoroughly when finished. If you see an animal that is sick, do not attempt to disturb, kill, or remove the animal. Accurately document the location of the animal and immediately contact the nearest Game Commission region office.

## Where can I have my animal tested?

Hunters can submit their harvested deer to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture for testing; there is a fee. The Department of Agriculture's Chronic Wasting Disease Submission Form and fee can be found on their website, [www.agriculture.pa.gov](http://www.agriculture.pa.gov).