HOW YOU CAN HELP

FOLLOW STATES' CWD REGULATIONS

- **Follow California Code of Regulations, Title 14, § 712.**
- **Review the regulations related to CWD for other states (http://cwd-info.org/category/national-news/).**
- **Check with the state's wildlife agency for possible mandatory testing areas.**

ALERT CDFW IF YOUR OUT-OF-STATE DEER TESTS POSITIVE FOR CWD

- Have out-of state deer and elk tested and processed in the state of its origin.
- If meat of an out-of-state deer tests positive for CWD, please contact the CDFW Wildlife Investigations Laboratory at (916) 358-2790.
- CDFW may incinerate meat from a CWD infected animal upon request.

USE CAUTION WHEN HANDLING GAME

- Wear gloves when field dressing and processing carcasses.
- Bone out meat from the animal.
- Minimize handling of brain, spinal cord, eyes, spleen, and lymph nodes and avoid consuming these tissues.
- Wash hands and instruments thoroughly after field dressing.
- Avoid eating meat from sick or CWD positive animals.

REPORT SICK ANIMALS

- Report any deer exhibiting abnormal signs via our online mortality reporting form (see Useful Links).

GET YOUR ANIMAL TESTED

- If hunting in CA, check the CWD webpage for information on CDFW check station locations and dates.

USEFUL LINKS

CDFW Wildlife Mortality Reporting
www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Laboratories/Wildlife-Investigations/Monitoring/Mortality-Report

CWD Alliance
http://cwd-info.org/

USGS National Wildlife Health Center – Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)
www.nwhc.usgs.gov/disease_information/chronic_wasting_disease/

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Wildlife Investigations Laboratory
1701 Nimbus Dr. Suite D,
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
(916) 358-2790

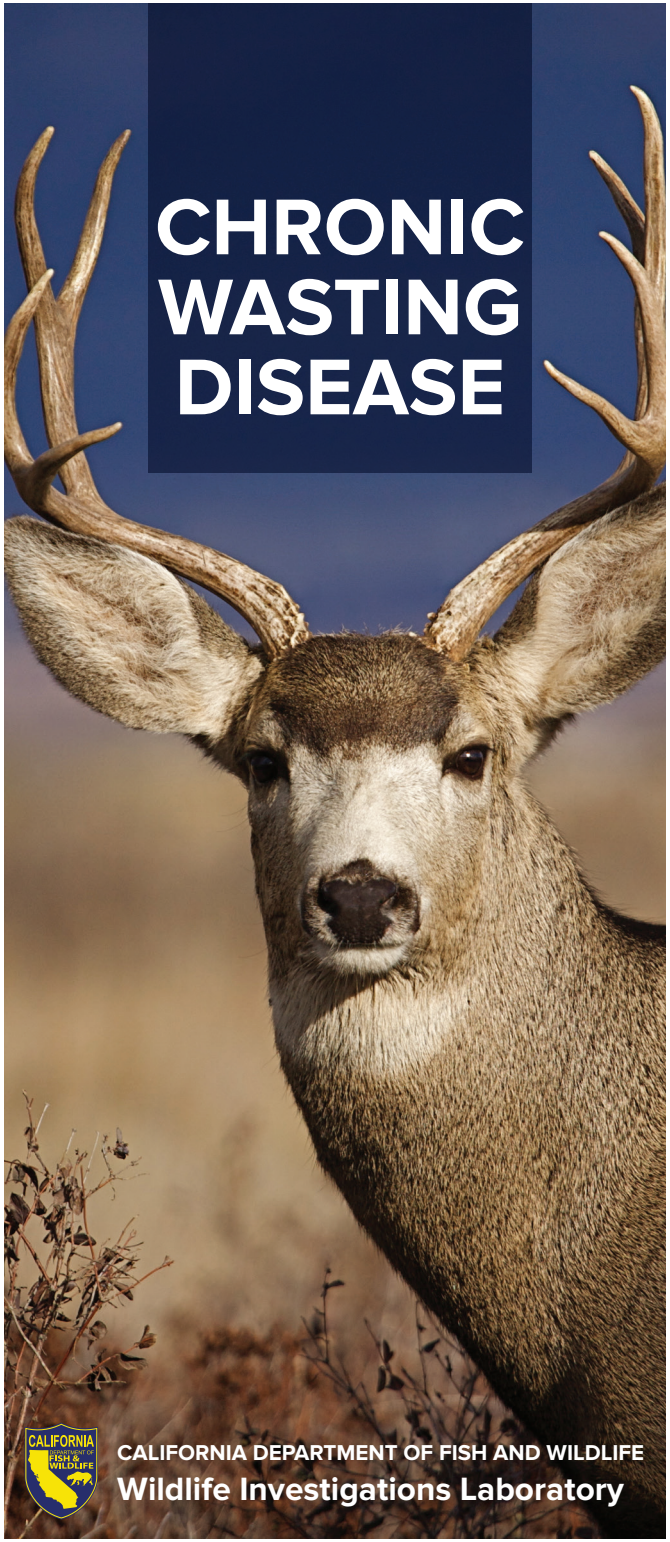
www.wildlife.ca.gov/CWD

California Code of Regulations, Title 14, § 712. Restriction of Importation of Hunter-Harvested Deer and Elk Carcasses.

No hunter harvested deer or elk (cervid) carcass or parts of cervid carcass shall be imported into the State, except for the following body parts:

(a) boned-out meat and commercially processed cuts of meat.
(b) portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached.
(c) hides with no heads attached.
(d) clean skull plates (no meat or tissue attached) with antlers attached.
(e) antlers with no meat or tissue attached.
(f) finished taxidermy heads.
(g) upper canine teeth (buglers, whistlers, ivories).

Updated July, 2018.



CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Wildlife Investigations Laboratory

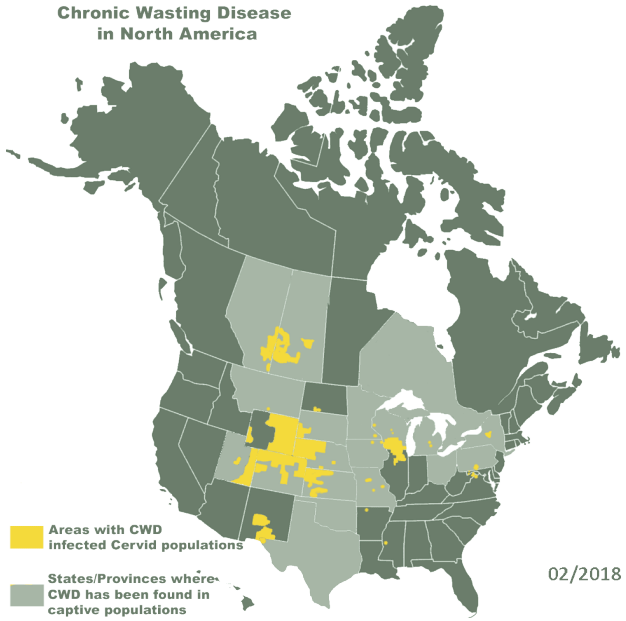
WHAT IS CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE?

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE (CWD) IS A FATAL NEUROLOGIC DISEASE OF CERVIDS (DEER, ELK, MOOSE, REINDEER).

IT IS CAUSED BY A MISFOLDED PROTEIN, CALLED A PRION, THAT CAUSES PROGRESSIVE DAMAGE TO THE BRAIN.

WHERE IS CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE?

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) has been diagnosed in free-ranging and captive deer, elk, and moose in 25 states and two Canadian provinces. It has also been found in captive elk and Sika deer in South Korea; free-ranging reindeer, red deer, and moose in Norway; and free-ranging moose in Finland.



Map of North America indicating wild cervid populations infected with CWD (yellow), and states that have had CWD positives within captive populations (light green). Courtesy of CWD Alliance (http://CWD-info.org). Updated February, 2018.

HOW IS CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE SPREAD?

The disease spreads through direct contact with infected individuals or an environment contaminated with infectious material. Infectious prion has been detected in urine, feces, saliva, and many tissues of infected animals such as muscle.

CAN CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE BE SPREAD TO PEOPLE?

There are no documented cases of CWD in a people. However, CDFW and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend that hunters do not consume animals that test positive for CWD or otherwise appear sick.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE?

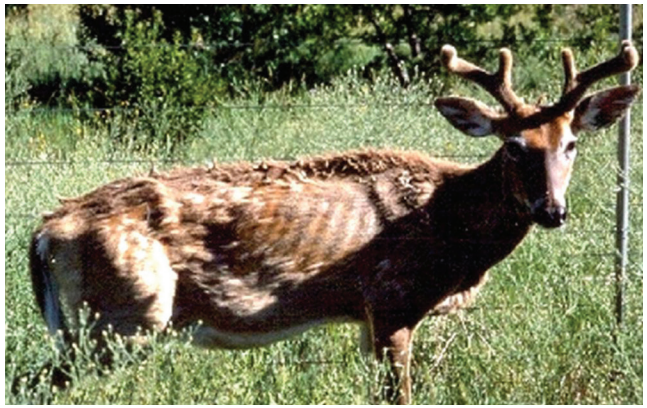
Infected animals gradually lose body condition, becoming emaciated or "wasted." They may display a wide stance, staggering gait, or inability to keep their head up and have excessive salivation and thirst.

HOW IS CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE DIAGNOSED?

Approved tests in free-ranging cervids involve directly testing lymph node and brainstem. For this reason, sampling hunter-harvested animals remains the most reliable method for obtaining sufficient numbers for surveillance.

WHAT IS CALIFORNIA DOING?

Since 1999, California has tested 4500 deer and elk for CWD. To date, no CWD has been found. However, the potential for CWD to spread to California's deer and elk populations still exists and surveillance for the disease remains important.

California legislative and regulatory actions have helped reduce the risk of importing CWD. These include:

- severely limiting the importation of captive deer and elk (and other cervids)
- banning the feeding of wildlife
- limiting what hunters can bring in from out-of-state hunts; "no skull, no backbone."