

Chronic Wasting Disease Sampling Protocol

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

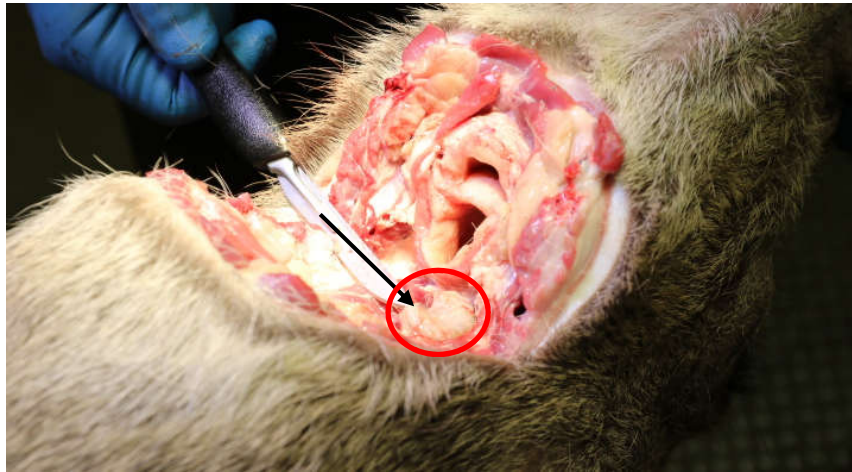


1. Fill out data card.

- Please record the hunter's last name and document # from the deer tag (D- 0000000000-0).
 - Place the card in the outer pocket of the sample bag, or attached to the ear if you are only collecting the head.
- If you do not have a sample bag, a Ziploc bag can be used with the name and document number written on the exterior in permanent marker.

2. Collect Retropharyngeal Lymph Nodes (RPLN) – For a trained individual this process can take less than a minute

- Lymph nodes are located at the base of the skull. A cut can be made just behind the angle of the jaw through the trachea and esophagus.
- The RPLNs should be located at the 5 and 7 o'clock position relative to the windpipe, RPLNs are oval to kidney in shape, between the size of a dime and a quarter, and firm in texture.
- Harvested RPLNs can be placed in the sample bag provided along with the data card, and can be frozen until submission to CDFW.



- Videos of how to sample for RPLNs can be found online, below are links to the Wyoming Game and Fish and the Colorado Parks and Wildlife videos
 - **WGFD video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-jpvxatk0gw>
 - **CPW video:** <https://vimeo.com/1842452>

3. Head collection for later sampling

- If you are unable to collect the lymph nodes, CDFW asks that you remove the head along with the topmost portion of the neck and attach a data card to the head with tape or zip tie. The head can then be frozen until collection by CDFW.

4. Sample Submission

- Please reach out to your local CDFW contact to arrange pick up of samples.
- RPLN samples can also be shipped directly to CDFW. If you reach out to one of the contacts below, they can arrange for a freezer shipping box and label to be sent to your location.
 - **Nicholas Shirkey**, Environmental Scientist: Nicholas.Shirkey@wildlife.ca.gov, 916-358-1465
 - **Brandon Munk**, Game Program Veterinarian: Brandon.Munk@wildlife.ca.gov, 916-358-1194

• Ship Samples to this address:

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