

WHAT IS CWD?

Chronic wasting disease is a contagious neurological disease of deer, elk, moose and reindeer (caribou) caused by an misshapen form of a protein called a prion.

CWD can have an incubation period of over a year, and clinical symptoms develop slowly. Because the disease takes so long to progress, infected deer can appear healthy for more than a year before showing clinical signs. In the clinical stage, neurological degeneration from CWD prions causes extreme weight loss, abnormal behavior and loss of bodily functions.

CWD is always fatal, and there is no known cure.

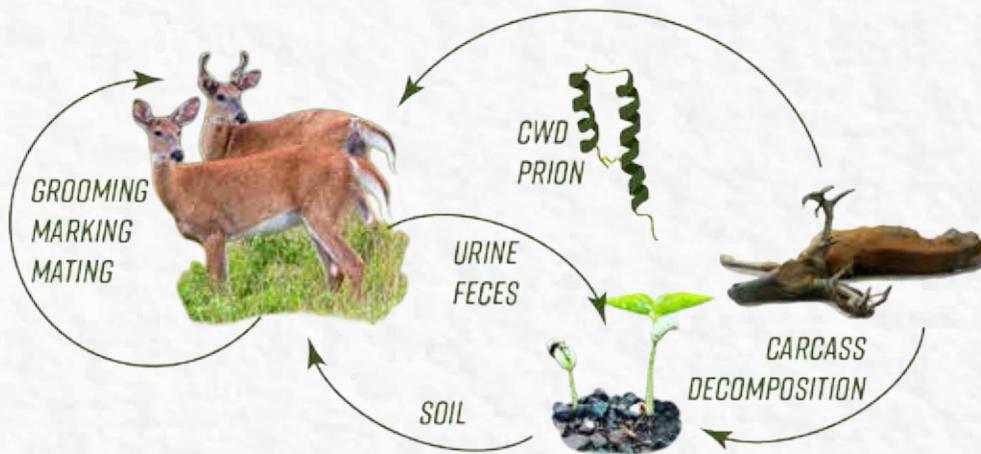
While there has never been a documented case of CWD in humans, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and the Centers for Disease Control recommend against consuming meat from CWD-infected deer.

HOW DOES CWD SPREAD?

Infected deer shed CWD prions in their saliva, urine and feces. They can also shed prions after death as their bodies decompose into the soil.

CWD is spread to healthy animals through direct contact with an infected animal's saliva, urine, blood, feces or carcass.

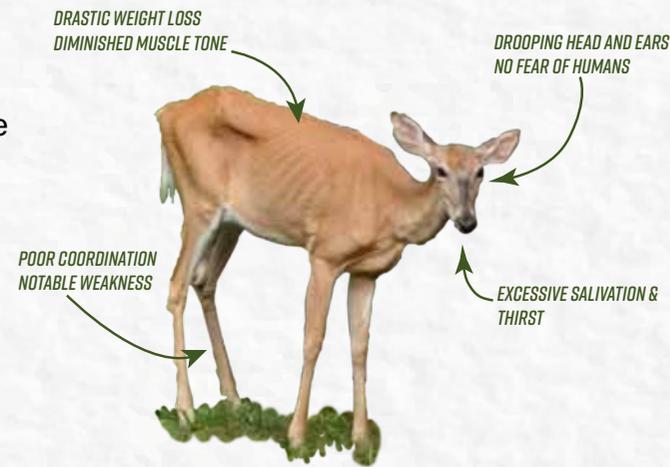
CWD prions are extremely resistant to destruction and disinfection. They can persist in the environment for a long time, exposing deer to the disease and making containment a challenge.



ROUTES OF CWD TRANSMISSION:
CWD SPREADS BY DIRECT CONTACT WITH INFECTED SALIVA, URINE, BLOOD OR FECES OR BY CONTACT WITH PRIONS LEFT ON THE LANDSCAPE IN BODILY FLUIDS OR INFECTED CARCASSES. INDIRECT TRANSMISSION CAN ALSO OCCUR THROUGH CONTACT WITH CONTAMINATED SOIL.



DEER WITH CWD LOOK HEALTHY UNTIL THEY DEVELOP CLINICAL SIGNS



DNR.WI.GOV
KEYWORD "CWD"

Visit the DNR online for more information about how to prevent the spread of CWD, where the disease is in Wisconsin and DNR research on CWD.



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CWD IN WISCONSIN



ENJOY THE HUNT.
PROTECT THE HERD.
SLOW THE SPREAD.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO *SLOW THE SPREAD* OF CWD

TEST THE DEER YOU HARVEST

CWD testing is free, accurate and helpful for disease monitoring efforts.

After registering a deer, hunters anywhere in Wisconsin can submit a sample - the deer's head with three inches of neck attached - for testing as soon as possible after harvest.

When submitting a sample, hunters should provide the following information:

- » Deer harvest authorization number
- » DNR customer number
- » Contact information for test results
- » Location of harvest (county, township, range, section and quarter section)

Test results are typically available 10-14 days after the deer is brought to a sampling station.

For more information and to find sampling locations, visit dnr.wi.gov and search "CWD sampling."

TRANSPORT AND DISPOSE OF DEER CARCASSES PROPERLY

Healthy deer may contract CWD through exposure to contaminated soil where a CWD-positive carcass has decomposed. That's why disposing of deer carcasses properly, including bones and butchering waste, helps slow the spread of CWD.

- » Use processors and taxidermists who dispose of deer waste in a landfill.
- » Keep deer carcasses within the county of harvest or an immediately adjacent county.
- » Do not bring a deer carcass from a state/province that has CWD into Wisconsin unless it is taken directly to a meat processor or taxidermist within 72 hours of entry into the state.
- » For non-resident hunters, consult your home state's website or regulations book for information on deer carcass import requirements.

For more information and locations, visit dnr.wi.gov and search "carcass disposal."

PARTICIPATE IN ADOPT-A-KIOSK AND ADOPT-A-DUMPSTER

Providing access to sampling and proper carcass disposal helps hunters slow the spread of CWD.

Individuals or organizations can support hunters and deer herd health in their area by sponsoring a kiosk or carcass disposal dumpster through the Adopt-a-Kiosk and Adopt-a-Dumpster programs.

To learn more, visit dnr.wi.gov, search keyword "CWD" and click on the Adopt-a-Kiosk and Adopt-a-Dumpster links under the Volunteer section.

REPORT A SICK DEER

Reporting sick deer is an efficient way to monitor deer herd health throughout the year. Anyone who observes a sick deer is encouraged to report their sighting to the DNR.

To find local DNR staff, visit dnr.wi.gov and search "sick deer."

KNOW ABOUT BAITING AND FEEDING

More than half of Wisconsin's 72 counties have active bans on baiting and feeding deer because of the risk of CWD transmission when animals gather in unnaturally high densities.

One way hunters and wildlife watchers can help slow the spread is by adhering to bans where they are in effect and by choosing not to bait or feed in counties without a ban.

For hunters using scent lures, consider the following recommendations:

- » Use commercially produced scent-wicks that can be hung from a twig or branch and then removed at the end of the hunt.
- » Use scents in re-sealable containers to prevent contact with soil and vegetation.
- » Switch to synthetic or food-based scents and eliminate the use of urine-based scents.

For more information, visit dnr.wi.gov and search "baiting and feeding."

