

Deer Carcass Transportation Frequently Asked Questions 2018 Deer Hunting Season

GENERAL QUESTIONS

- Q. What has changed from 2017?
- A. In response to a directive by Governor Walker, new rules were passed restricting the movement of wild deer carcasses from deer that were harvested in a CWD-affected county. The following is an overview of the new carcass movement restrictions that go into effect October 1, 2018:
1. Whole deer carcasses harvested in a CWD-affected county may not leave the county of harvest.
 2. Deer carcass parts may now be left in the field, including lands that are state-owned or state-managed.
 3. Hunters have 72 hours from the time the deer carcass leaves the county of harvest to take their deer to a licensed meat processor or taxidermist.
 4. Deer heads may leave a CWD-affected county if the head is being submitted for CWD testing.
- Q. Who is not affected by this rule change?
- A. Hunters who harvest a deer within a non CWD-affected county can move their deer carcass anywhere in the state. Additionally, hunters who self-process their deer in the county of harvest or take their deer to a licensed meat processor located in the county of harvest will not be affected by this new rule.
- Q. Why are these restrictions being put into place?
- A. The Governor directed the department to engage in rulemaking in his CWD initiative which was released in May of 2018. Since discovery of CWD in Wisconsin in 2002, a wild or captive CWD positive deer has been identified in or within 10 miles of 55 counties across the state. Although Wisconsin has made efforts to slow the progression of the disease by restricting baiting and feeding, these efforts have not prevented the spread of CWD. The progression of CWD threatens the welfare of Wisconsin's unique hunting culture as well as the multi-billion-dollar hunting industry within the state.



- Q. When is the next opportunity for public input on these rules?
- A. Statute requires the department to hold an emergency rule hearing within 45 days of the effective date of the rule. This hearing will likely take place in mid-September in a location yet to be determined.
- Q. Will every CWD affected county have a place where I can drop my deer head for testing?
- A. CWD sampling locations are not available in every CWD-affected county or statewide. The department prepares annual surveillance plans for conducting surveillance in specific areas of the state based upon the best available science. For more information regarding where to take your deer for sampling, visit dnr.wi.gov and search keywords "[CWD sampling](#)," Hunters can also contact their local biologist to arrange for a sample.
- Q. Have these rules changed anything regarding the registration of a harvested deer?
- A. Deer are still required to be registered by 5 p.m. the day after recovery

CARCASS MOVEMENT FROM CWD AFFECTED COUNTIES

- Q. What are the exceptions for moving a deer carcass out of a CWD affected county?
- A. The following may be moved outside of a CWD-affected county:
- 1) Meat that is cut and wrapped, either commercially or privately.
 - 2) Quarters or other portions of meat to which no part of the spinal column is attached.
 - 3) Meat that has been deboned.
 - 4) Hides with no head attached.
 - 5) Finished taxidermy heads.
 - 6) Antlers with no tissue attached except for velvet on antlers
 - 7) Skulls with or without antlers attached which have no brain or lymphoid tissue attached.
 - 8) Upper canine teeth.
 - 9) Deer carcasses transported by a licensed solid waste transporter regulated under s. NR 502.06 or by a person who is under contract with the department to transport deer killed by vehicles for disposal in a landfill.
 - 10) A deer head being transported for CWD testing



11) Submitting the carcass which includes the head and spinal column to a licensed meat processor or permitted taxidermist within 72 hours from the time the carcass leaves the county of harvest

- Q. Why can't I move my deer from one CWD-affected county to another in the southern part of the state?
- A. While CWD is endemic to southern Wisconsin, prevalence and distribution is not the same for every county across the south. For example, moving a deer carcass within the group of counties identified as CWD-affected has areas with lower disease prevalence (occurrence) counties as well as counties with a higher CWD prevalence. If a hunter moves a deer carcass from Iowa County (higher prevalence) for instance to Dodge County (lower prevalence), although both counties are CWD-affected, the risk of spreading CWD is increased if the carcass of the Iowa County deer is disposed of on the landscape in Dodge County. As a principle of reducing risk of disease transmission it remains important to not move carcasses from high prevalence areas to areas with lower prevalence or where CWD has not yet been detected, even in the endemic zone.
- Q. I live just across the border of the county I hunt in; can I bring my deer home?
- A. If you plan to process it at home, the spine and head must be left in the county of harvest, so you would need to “quarter” or debone the carcass. The whole deer carcass may be taken home if it will be taken to a licensed meat processor or taxidermist within 72 hours of leaving the county.
- Q. What if I hit a deer with my car and would like to keep it?
- A. Individuals leaving the CWD-affected county with a carcass that has head and spinal column attached would need to take it to a licensed meat processor or licensed taxidermist within 72 hours of the carcass leaving the county of origin. Alternatively, they may self-process the deer somewhere in the county of origin. However, carcass parts may not be left on the road-side and the waste could not be littered. Also, carcass waste from car-killed deer may not be disposed of on public lands.

For more information regarding wild deer carcass movement please visit:
<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/carcassmovement.html>

MEAT PROCESSING

- Q. What is a licensed meat processor, and why can a hunter bring a whole deer carcass out of the county of harvest to these facilities?



- A. A licensed meat processor is one that is operating under a valid license issued by the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection under s. 97.42 (2) (a), Stats. Hunters are allowed to bring a whole deer carcass out of the county of harvest because licensed facilities are required to properly dispose of all carcass waste in a landfill.
- Q. My neighbor sets up a processing operation for the 9-day gun hunt. Can I deliver my carcass to this location?
- A. Yes, if your neighbor is a licensed meat processor.
- Q. I will be using a licensed meat processor but like to wait to bring it in to avoid the rush after the 9-day gun hunt. Can I move my deer in between counties?
- A. Yes, you can quarter or debone the carcass, or you can keep the deer carcass in the CWD-affected county of harvest following registration requirements. After leaving the county of harvest you have 72 hours to bring the carcass to a licensed meat processor.
- Q. If I butcher my deer in camp before coming home, can I bring the head to a CWD sampling site in another county if I can't find a place to drop it off in the county of harvest?
- A. Yes, the rule does not preclude hunters from moving a deer head outside of a CWD-affected county if that head is being transported to an approved CWD sampling cooperator, self-service kiosk, or staffed CWD testing location for the purpose of submitting the head for removal of tissues for CWD testing. After sample tissue has been removed the head will be disposed of properly.
- Q. Can I butcher my deer in camp and still throw the bones behind the cabin? I'm in a CWD affected county
- A. Yes, if your deer camp and where the deer was harvested is within the same CWD-affected county this is allowed. The preferred option is disposal in a landfill that accepts deer waste. Landfills are a safe and cost-effective option for disposing of carcass waste potentially contaminated with CWD-causing prions. Leaving deer carcass waste back on the landscape as close to where the deer was harvested as possible is less of a disease transmission risk than this waste being discarded in a location where CWD has not been detected
- Q. Could a hunter transport a whole carcass home, process it there, and then take the bones, etc. to a licensed processor for disposal within 72 hrs and be legal?



- A. No, the entire carcass with the head and the spine attached must be taken to a licensed meat processor within the 72-hour timeframe.
- Q. If I debone all the meat, does it have to be wrapped in some sort of freezer wrap? Or can I just put it into plastic tubs and finish the processing and wrapping at home?
- A. Deboned meat does not have to be wrapped before it leaves the county of harvest.
- Q. If I leave the leg bones in the quarters, is there any special way I am required to dispose of them when I butcher my deer at home.
- A. The preferred option available is disposal in a landfill that accepts deer waste. Landfills are a safe and cost-effective option for disposing of carcass waste potentially contaminated with CWD-causing prions. Landfill disposal establishes a barrier between uninfected deer and deer-carcass waste that potentially contains infectious CWD material. Scientific research has shown that when properly disposed of in a landfill, prions are extremely unlikely to migrate from the landfill disposal site. For most people, disposal in a landfill would be accomplished either by taking that waste directly to the landfill or through their regular trash pick-up service.

For more information regarding meat processing please visit:
<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/handling.html>

TAXIDERMY

- Q. I'm going to bring my deer back whole, but I'll take it to the taxidermist so he can take the head. Any problems with this, or is there more that I need to do? What if he won't take the spine?
- A. The carcass must be left with the licensed taxidermist so the carcass waste is disposed of via the taxidermist's normal waste stream, or, once the head is removed the remaining intact carcass must then be taken to a licensed meat processor within the allowed 72 hours.
- Q. If I shoot a buck and want to keep the antlers, do I have to prepare them in any way?
- A. Antlers can be safely transported out of the CWD-affected county of harvest provided no part of the brain is attached to the skull plate. Also, skulls with or



without antlers attached which have no brain or lymphoid tissue attached may leave the county of harvest

Q. How about if I want the entire skull?

A. Deer skulls which have no brain or lymphoid tissue attached may leave the county of harvest without any restrictions. Also, the entire head can be transported out of the CWD-affected county of origin if the head is brought to a licensed taxidermist within 72 hours or to an approved CWD sampling cooperater, kiosk, or staffed CWD testing center for the purpose of testing the head for CWD.

Q. Can I take the head from the CWD-affected county of harvest to boil the skull for a European mount at my home?

A. Only deer skulls which have no brain or lymphoid tissue attached may leave the county of harvest without any restrictions. The entire head can be transported out of the CWD-affected county of origin if the head is brought to a licensed taxidermist within 72 hours or to an approved CWD sampling cooperater, kiosk, or staffed CWD testing center for the purpose of testing the head for CWD.

Q. Can I bring the deer's hide home with me for tanning?

A. Yes, as long as no portion of the head or spinal column is attached.

Q. Can I leave the head attached to the hide when I bring it home?

A. Deer heads are only allowed to leave the county of harvest if they are being taken to a CWD testing center. A deer head attached to the carcass may be taken to a licensed meat processor or taxidermist within the proper 72-hour window.

CARCASS DISPOSAL

Q. Why can't I just take my deer home to process and dispose of the carcass parts from there into my local garbage? Or take it to a landfill?

A. Some landfills in Wisconsin do not accept deer carcass waste. Therefore, it is likely that a garbage hauler could refuse to take the carcass, leaving the hunter with no other option than to dispose of the carcass on the landscape in a county that was not the county of harvest. This increases the likelihood of CWD spreading to new areas.

However, a deer carcass may be properly disposed of in a landfill if where you hunt and where you live are within the same CWD-affected county of harvest and the local landfill accepts carcass waste. All hunters should call their local landfill



to determine if they accept deer carcass waste before this type of disposal is attempted.

- Q. Isn't leaving the spinal column/head on the landscape a disease transmission risk? Do I have to leave these parts behind or can I take them with me?
- A. The head and spinal column must be left in the CWD-affected county of origin unless brought to a licensed meat processor or taxidermist. The preferred option is disposal in a landfill that accepts deer waste if you can do so within the CWD-affected county of harvest. Landfills are a safe and cost-effective option for disposing of carcass waste potentially contaminated with CWD-causing prions. Leaving deer carcass waste back on the landscape as close to where the deer was harvested as possible is less of a disease transmission risk than this waste being discarded in a location where CWD has not been detected.

For more information about wild deer carcass disposal please visit:
<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/landfillmap.html>

