

Precautions when pursuing or handling deer that may have been exposed to CWD

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a contagious neurological disease that causes deer to die. CWD has not been detected in Florida. Hunters are advised to take the following precautions when pursuing or handling deer, elk, moose, caribou or other members of the deer family when hunting in a state where CWD has been detected:

- Do not shoot, handle or consume any animal that is acting abnormally or appears to be sick.
- Avoid consuming meat from any animal that tests positive for CWD.

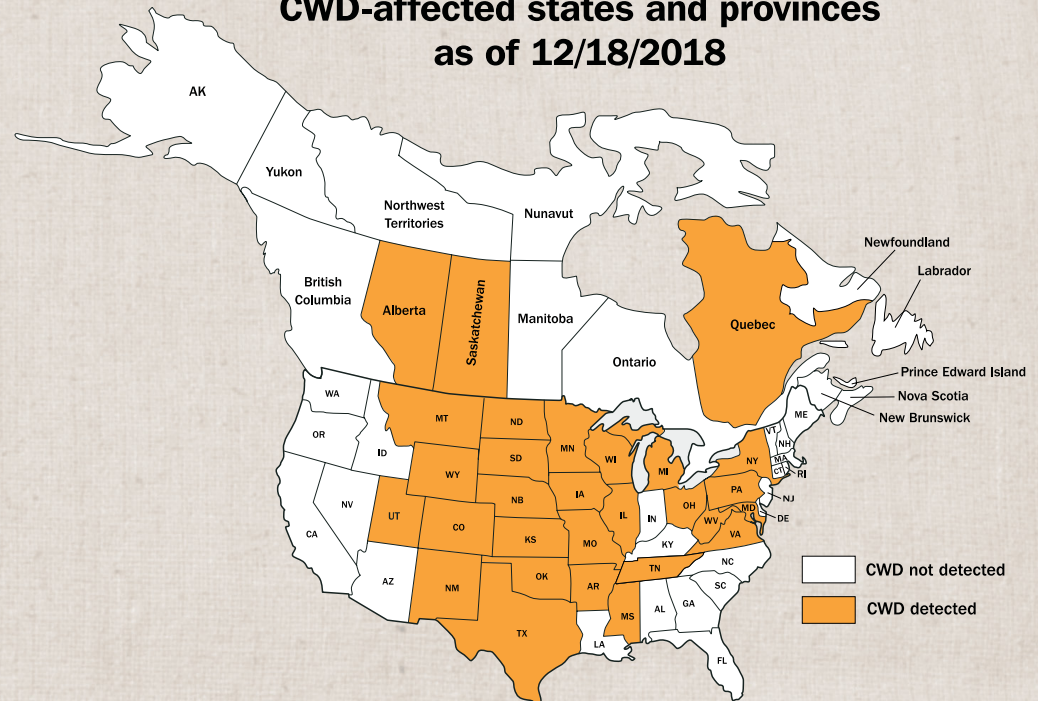
Guidance for field dressing and processing

- Wear latex or rubber gloves.
- Bone out the meat. Don't saw through bone and avoid cutting through the brain or spinal cord (backbone).
- Minimize the handling of brain, tonsils and spinal tissues.
- Wash hands and instruments thoroughly afterward.
- Avoid consuming brain, spinal cord, eyes, spleen, tonsils and lymph nodes of harvested animals. Normal field dressing coupled with boning out a carcass will remove most, if not all, of these body parts.
- Cutting away all fatty tissue will remove remaining lymph nodes.
- If you have your deer commercially processed, request your animal be processed individually, with no meat from other animals added to yours.

If you see or harvest an animal in Florida that appears sick, call the FWC's CWD hotline at 866-CWD-WATCH (293-9282).

Visit MyFWC.com/CWD

CWD-affected states and provinces as of 12/18/2018



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About Chronic Wasting Disease

Chronic wasting disease (CWD), which has **NOT** been detected in Florida, damages the brains of affected deer, elk, moose, caribou and other members of the deer family and causes them to die. A deer can be infected with CWD yet appear completely healthy for up to 2 years before showing signs of disease. Over time, CWD causes extreme weight loss, abnormal behaviors such as listlessness, lowering of the head, blank facial expression, walking in circles, staggering, and standing with a wide stance.

This disease can be transmitted to members of the deer family through feces, urine, or saliva from animals with CWD. Animals also may contract CWD by ingesting prions present in soil contaminated with the tissues or bodily fluids of CWD-positive deer. There is no evidence that CWD can be transmitted to livestock or humans.

If you see a sick, abnormally thin deer or find a deer dead from unknown causes call the CWD hotline at 866-CWD-WATCH (866-293-9282) to report the location of the animal.



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