

# CWD-positive deer

## Information sheet

Wildlife information bulletin #7: Fall 2018

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Any hunter who submits a head that is suspected of having chronic wasting disease (CWD) is notified directly (by phone) by Fish and Wildlife staff.

### Positive call

This call is made to inform hunters that their deer failed the screening test and is considered positive for CWD.

Hunters will be asked to verify:

- species, sex, age (fawn, adult)
- exact location and date of kill
- size of antlers (if male)
- general body condition (poor, fair, good, excellent)
- anything unusual about the animal



### Confirmation call

In a few cases the screening test does not definitively indicate the deer has CWD. Such situations are flagged as needing follow up tests. The hunter will be:

- notified of the initial situation

- called again when final results are available

### Meat of infected deer

Although CWD is not known to infect humans, hunters have options in regards to meat of an animal with CWD.

The hunter may:

- keep the meat and eat it
- if not eaten by hunter, meat should be buried in a Class 2 landfill or incinerated.
- CWD-positive meat should NOT be fed to dogs nor left on the landscape

### Note

Health authorities recommend against eating meat from infected deer. Alberta Health also recommends deer harvested in eastern Alberta be tested before being eaten.



## CWD replacement licence discontinued

Prior to 2018, a free replacement licence was offered to a hunter who chose not to eat the meat of a deer with CWD. The purpose of the replacement was to encourage hunters to continue to harvest deer in the CWD area.

CWD prevalence continues to increase, particularly in specific local mule deer groups. Some individual hunters are receiving consecutive free mule deer buck licences, creating a disproportionate harvest opportunity and advantage over those hunters who must build priority points to access a licence, particularly antlered mule deer.

As the number of CWD cases increases over time, the number of replacement licences becomes disproportionate to the number of licences available to individuals who apply for draws, and limits the diversity of opportunity for broader populations of hunters who wish to have that opportunity.



## Additional information

Short cut to Alberta's CWD information pages:

[alberta.ca/cwd](http://alberta.ca/cwd)

General information about hunting in Alberta:

[mywildalberta.ca/Hunting/](http://mywildalberta.ca/Hunting/)

Information regarding CWD and human health:

[aep.alberta.ca/fish-wildlife/wildlife-diseases/chronic-wasting-disease/cwd-public-health.aspx](http://aep.alberta.ca/fish-wildlife/wildlife-diseases/chronic-wasting-disease/cwd-public-health.aspx)