

report any “sick looking” deer, elk, or other CWD susceptible species while hunting in any CWD zone to TPWD. Contact information for the CWD zone check stations is found within the CWD section of the current Outdoor Annual and associated smart device application. To report a “sick looking” deer outside of a CWD zone, contact a TPWD wildlife biologist or Texas Game Warden.

Mandatory Carcass Movement Restrictions

Hunters cannot bring into Texas deer, elk, or other CWD susceptible species’ carcasses or parts of carcasses from another state or country known to have CWD or transport carcasses or parts of carcasses out of a CWD zone within Texas except under the following conditions:

- cut quarters with all brain and spinal cord tissue removed; boned meat - Texas regulations do not allow processing beyond quarters until reaching your final destination (home or processing facility);
- cut and wrapped meat - Texas regulations do not allow processing beyond quarters until reaching your final destination (home or processing facility);
- caped hides with skull not attached;
- skull plate with antlers attached and cleaned of all soft tissue
- finished taxidermy products;
- the skinned or unskinned head of a susceptible species may be transported to a taxidermist, provide all brain material, soft tissue, spinal column and any unused portions of the head are disposed of in a landfill in Texas permitted by Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. A Deer Head Waiver Form must be obtained from a TPWD CWD check station or the TPWD CWD website before transporting an intact head from CWD zone or state or country known to have CWD. The waiver should be completed and kept on your person or with the deer head until it reaches the taxidermist. Present the form to the taxidermist to ensure they are aware of the disposal requirements on non-useable parts from the head.

Carcass movement restrictions do not apply if the carcass will not be moved outside of a CWD zone. However, it is recommended to always properly dispose of unused carcass parts. For a map of the current distribution of CWD in North America, see the U.S. Geological Survey’s Distribution of Chronic Wasting Disease in North America Sept 2018 webpage. Other states may have rules regarding CWD susceptible species carcasses entering their state. If you are from another state and hunting in Texas, be sure and check your home state’s CWD requirements. A map of states with CWD carcass entry restrictions is available on the CWD-INFO’s webpage Carcass Transportation Regulations in the United States and Canada. The TPWD Outdoor Annual Chronic Wasting Disease webpage has detailed information

on CWD including regulations, check station information, and carcass movement restrictions.

Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) website has detailed information on their statewide mandatory testing requirements of exotic CWD susceptible species such as elk, red deer, sika, moose, reindeer, and any associated subspecies and hybrids.

CWD in Texas

The first case of CWD in Texas was discovered in 2012 in free-ranging mule deer in the Hueco Mountains of far West Texas. The disease has since been detected in free-ranging mule deer, white-tailed deer, and elk in Dallam and Hartley counties, located in the northwest Panhandle.

The first case of CWD in Texas white-tailed deer was found in a Medina County deer-breeding facility in 2015 as a result of routine disease monitoring. Increased testing requirements resulted in the detection of CWD in 4 additional deer breeding facilities and two release sites



The deer shown above is an example of one suffering from Chronic Wasting Disease. The photo is courtesy of Warden Micheal Hopper of the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism.

adjacent to the CWD-positive deer breeding facilities. CWD was also detected in a free-ranging white-tailed deer in Medina County in 2017 — for details and chronology of CWD detections in Texas, see CWD Positives in Texas webpage. (Continued on next page)

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