

# BC CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE PROGRAM

Help protect BC deer from CWD



*Understand the risks*



*Do not bring high risk material back to BC*



*Report sick animals*



*Submit a head for testing*

*Photo © Jared Habbs*



**STOP CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE**  
**Do Not Import Intact Deer Carcasses**  
**Keep B.C. Wildlife Healthy**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
BC Wildlife Health Program  
☎ (250) 751-3219  
✉ [cait.nelson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:cait.nelson@gov.bc.ca)  
🌐 [www.gov.bc.ca/chronicwastingdisease.ca](http://www.gov.bc.ca/chronicwastingdisease.ca)



## WHAT IS CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE?

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a neurological disease that affects deer species (cervids). The disease is caused by an abnormal protein called a prion. An infected animal can shed the infectious agent (prions) throughout the course of the disease, even before symptoms develop. There are no vaccines or treatments - the disease is fatal in all cases.

## WHAT DOES CWD LOOK LIKE?

As the disease progresses, infected animals may exhibit extreme weight loss, drooling, difficulty swallowing, increased drinking and urination, poor coordination or stumbling, trembling or depression.

## IS THERE A RISK TO HUMANS?

There is no direct evidence that CWD can infect humans, however, there is much that is not known about the disease. World Health Organization and other human health experts recommend that all animals known or suspected to be infected with CWD prions are not used for human consumption.

## WHAT IS BC DOING ABOUT IT?

Surveillance is key to confirm a CWD-free status and to detect the disease as early as possible. The B.C. Wildlife Health Program has been testing free-ranging cervids in B.C. since 2002. No CWD cases have been identified in B.C. to date. The Province also has a number of regulatory tools in place to reduce the risk.



## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

Be part of the solution



### *Submit a head for CWD testing*

Hunters in B.C. are encouraged to submit cervid heads to the B.C. Wildlife Health Program at one of the drop off locations. Visit our website for drop off locations and instructions. [www.gov.bc.ca/chronicwastingdisease.ca](http://www.gov.bc.ca/chronicwastingdisease.ca).



### *Report sick animals*

If you observe a sick or unusually thin animal or an animal exhibiting neurological symptoms like stumbling or trembling, please take photos or video and report to the B.C. Wildlife Health Program or the RAPP line at 1-877-952-7277.



### *Do not bring high risk material back to B.C.*

If you hunt in an area outside B.C. where CWD is found, please leave the high-risk tissues (brain, spinal cord, lymph nodes and organs) where you harvested the animal and return only with the meat, antlers with cleaned skull plate and/or hide (in a sealed container).