

Deer Heads for Surveillance

Hunter harvested deer were sought to sample two specific tissue types for evidence of CWD. Both tissue types can be located in hunter harvested deer by severing the head from the neck several inches below the neck joint. Donation of heads was voluntary and antlers may be removed prior to donation.

We collected the end portion of the brain stem (obex) at the base of the brain where it meets the spinal cord. We are also collected two specific lymph nodes located in the white connective tissue on either side of the pharynx in the upper neck, hind jaw area.

NOTE:

Collection for CWD Surveillance is no longer taking place due to Federal budget constraints. If CWD is detected on or near the L'Anse Reservation, surveillance will recommence.

KBIC Natural Resource Department

14359 Pequaming Road

L'Anse, MI 49946

524-5757 x19

Bring your specimen Mon—Fri, 9 am to 4 pm to have your deer aged. After hours drop off also available.

Keweenaw Bay Indian
Community
Natural Resource Department
14359 Pequaming Road
L'Anse, MI 49946

Keweenaw Bay Indian Community



Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance



Monitoring costs paid by:
USDA Animal Plant Health
Inspection Services

KBIC Natural Resource
Department.

KBIC Conservation
Department

What is Chronic Wasting Disease?

CWD is a contagious and fatal neurological disease caused by abnormal proteins called prions that cause sponge like holes in the brain tissue of infected deer, moose, and elk.

How CWD is transmitted between animals is not well understood. Studies show prions are present in saliva and feces of infected deer and may cause the spread of infection through direct contact (Mathiason et al. 2006). It has also been shown that infective prions persist in the soil for many years and cause indirect transmission as well (Georgsson et al. 2006).

Signs of CWD in Whitetail Deer

Chronic wasting disease-affected deer show loss of body condition and changes in behavior. They may show a staggering gate and wide based stance; subtle head tremors occur in some animals; they may be found near water sources; they may appear drowsy; and they may carry their head and ears lowered.

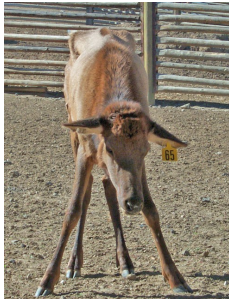


Figure 2. An elk experimentally infected with chronic wasting disease. Photo by Terry Kreeger, Wyoming Game and Fish Laboratory.

The youngest animal diagnosed with clinical CWD was 17 months old, suggesting 16-17 months may be the minimum natural incubation period.

To date in the Midwest, CWD was found in wild deer in Southern Wisconsin and one captive deer in Kent County of Michigan's lower peninsula.

Prevent Spread of CWD

Do not move any unprocessed deer carcasses across state borders or across the bridge to/from lower Michigan. Contamination of the environment can persist for decades from decomposing carcass remains and spread disease to healthy populations (Georgsson et al. 2006).

Human Health Concerns

Though many observers try to compare CWD with "mad cow disease", the diseases are distinctly different. Currently, there is no evidence that CWD poses a risk for humans; however, public health officials recommend that human exposure to the CWD infectious agent be avoided as they continue to evaluate any potential health risk. No cases of human prion disease have been associated with CWD.

Nonetheless, health and wildlife officials advise caution. Hunters are encouraged not to consume meat from sick animals or those known to be infected. If concerned, hunters can take common sense precautions when field dressing and processing deer taken in areas where CWD is found or suspected.

Precautions

- Do not consume any animal that is acting abnormally or appears to be sick. Contact your game and fish department if you see or harvest an animal that appears sick.
- Wear latex or rubber gloves when field dressing your deer or elk.
- Bone out the meat from your animal. Don't saw through bone, and avoid cutting through the brain or spinal cord (backbone).
- Wash hands and instruments thoroughly after field dressing is completed.
- Avoid consuming brain, spinal cord, eyes, spleen, tonsils and lymph nodes of harvested animals.
- Avoid consuming the meat from any animal that

tests positive for the disease.

References:

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MaWhinney S., W. J. Pape, J. E. Forster, C. A. Anderson, P. Bosque, M. W. Miller. 2006 Human prion disease and relative risk associated with chronic wasting disease. Emerg Infect Dis. Available from <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/EID/vol12no10/06-0019.htm>.

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Funding:

This surveillance project is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture: Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service.

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