Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

FACT SHEET



CWD is a progressive, fatal disease that attacks the central nervous system of cervids (e.g. deer, moose, elk, and caribou). There is currently no treatment or cure.

Signs of CWD

Similar signs may be observed in other diseases.

Excessive thirst, salivation and urination

*Sometimes no visible signs are shown.

Lack of coordination

Unusual behaviour (such as lack of fear of humans)

Progressive weight loss





CWD surveillance

Ontario tests wild deer and other cervids annually. Since 2002 Ontario has tested:

over 15,000 wild deer and elk



over 3,100 farmed deer and elk



CWD has not yet been detected in Ontario



Distribution of CWD in North America



Legal Requirements

Cannot bring cervids from other provinces/states into Ontario, except:



- Packaged and deboned meat
- Finished taxidermy mounts
- Tanned hides and skins
- Cleaned skull plate and antlers with no tissue attached

Cannot use products that contain bodily fluids from any cervids for any purpose, including hunting.

Must hold a permit to transport live, captive cervids into, through or between points within the province.



Information and reporting

Report sighting of a sick deer to:

Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative 1-866-673-4781

Ontario's Natural Resources Information and Support Centre 1-800-667-1940 or by emailing CWD@ontario.ca

Visit our site for more information about CWD, surveillance and how you can help keep CWD out of Ontario.

