



**COMMISSIONER'S COURT MINUTES
DECEMBER 20, EMERGENCY TERM, A.D. 2019**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER.
- 2. DETERMINATION THAT A QUORUM IS PRESENT:

BE IT REMEMBERED that on this the 20th day of DECEMBER A.D. 2019 at 1:00 o'clock P.M., after due notice was given by posting of the attached Agenda; the Honorable Val Verde County Commissioners' Court convened in **EMERGENCY SESSION**. The meeting was called to order, the following members being present and constituted a quorum: Lewis G. Owens Jr., County Judge, Presiding; Martin Wardlaw, Commissioner of Precinct No. 1; Absent; Juan Carlos Vazquez, Commissioner of Precinct No. 2; Robert "LeBeau" Nettleton; Commissioner of Precinct No. 3; Gustavo Flores, Commissioner of Precinct No. 4; Absent and Generosa Gracia-Ramon, County Clerk; when the following proceeding was had to wit:

- 3. Pledge of Allegiance.
- 4. Approval and/or amending minutes from previous meetings.

ORDER	Motion	2 nd	Amend	Amendment/Notes	Accept	Ayes	Noes	Abst
				NONE				

- 5. Citizens' Comments.

1)

NONE

2)

3)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE PUBLIC THAT THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WILL BE DISCUSSED AND POSSIBLE ACTION MAY BE TAKEN BY THE VAL VERDE COUNTY COMMISSITIONERS COURT:

MOTION KEY:

JUDGE OWENS= O

COMM WARDLAW=W

COMM VAZQUEZ=V

COMM NETTLETON=N

COMM FLORES= F

QUORUM

X COUNTY JUDGE

Judge's Staff

Judge's Staff

A COMM. PRCT# 1

X COMM. PRCT# 2

X COMM. PRCT# 3

A COMM. PRCT# 4

ATTENDING

COUNTY STAFF/DEPTS:

COUNTY ATTY

COUNTY ATTY STAFF

COUNTY ATTY STAFF

DISTRICT CLERK

X IT

X SHERIFF

SHERIFF'S STAFF

AUDITOR

TREASURER

PURCHASING

HR

X TAX COLLECTOR

X RISK MGMT

X FIRE DEPT

X EMERGENCY MGMT

JP #1 Constable #1

JP #2 Constable #2

JP #3 Constable #3

JP #4 Constable #4

OTHER

MOTION KEY: JUDGE OWENS= O; COMM WARDLAW=W; COMM VAZQUEZ=V; COMM NETTLETON=N; COMM FLORES=F

6. Discussion and possible action regarding an agreement between Val Verde County and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to track or restrict deer carcass movement.

ORDER	Motion	2 nd	Amend	Amendment/Notes	Accept	Ayes	Noes	Abst
N/A				NO ACTION TAKEN,				
				PRESENTATION ONLY.				

7. Closed session consultation pursuant to Texas Government Code:

A. §551.071(2), attorney/client privilege; NONE HELD.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: _____ §551.071(2) A. _____ §551.071 _____			
OTHER _____	BEGAN @ _____	ENDED @ _____	BREAK @ _____
RESUMED @ _____ ACTION AFTER EX: _____			

8. County Judge's comments.

9. Adjourn. 2:46 P.M.

The foregoing, recorded in Volume 56, pages 292-303, inclusive, was on this the 8th day of January A.D. 2020, read and is hereby **APPROVED**.

Respectfully submitted,


LEWIS G. OWENS JR, COUNTY JUDGE
VAL VERDE COUNTY, TEXAS

ATTEST:

GENEROSA GRACIA-RAMON, COUNTY CLERK
VAL VERDE COUNTY, TEXAS



MOTION KEY: JUDGE OWENS= O; COMM WARDLAW=W; COMM VAZQUEZ=V; COMM NETTLETON=N; COMM FLORES=F

County of Val Verde



Lewis G. Owens Jr.

County Judge

400 Pecan Street
Del Rio, TX 78840
Email: lowens@valverdecountry.texas.gov

Phone (830) 774-7501
Fax (830) 775-9406

AGENDA/NOTICE
VAL VERDE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
EMERGENCY MEETING

County Court-at-Law Court Room
400 Pecan Street 2nd Floor
Del Rio, TX 78840

December 20, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.

1. Call to order.
2. Determining that a quorum is present.
3. Reciting the pledge of allegiance.
4. Approving and/or amending minutes from previous meetings.
5. Citizens' Comments.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE PUBLIC THAT THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WILL BE DISCUSSED AND POSSIBLE ACTION MAY BE TAKEN BY THE VAL VERDE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT:

6. Discussion and possible action regarding an agreement between Val Verde County and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to track or restrict deer carcass movement.

7. Closed session consultation pursuant to Texas Government Code:

A. §551.071(2), attorney/client privilege;

8. County Judge's comments.

9. Adjourn.



Lewis G. Owens Jr., County Judge
Val Verde County, Texas

THIS NOTICE OF THE AGENDA WAS POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD ON
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2019: AT 12:59 AM/PM

FILED

2019 DEC 19 A 11:59
GENE ROSA HERRERA-RAMON
VAL VERDE COUNTY CLERK
BY MJ DEPUTY

400 Pecan Street • Del Rio, TX 78840

CERTIFICATE

I, the undersigned County Clerk, do hereby certify that the above **AGENDA/NOTICE/ADDENDUM** of the Val Verde County Commissioner's Court is a true and correct copy of the **AGENDA/NOTICE/ADDENDUM** as posted on the courthouse door of Val Verde County, at a place readily accessible to the general public at all times on the 19th day of December, 20 19, at 11:59 o'clock p. m. and said **AGENDA/NOTICE/ADDENDUM** remained so posted continuously for at least 72 hours preceding the scheduled time of said meeting.





Generosa Gracia-Ramon
Val Verde County Clerk

Chronic Wasting Disease

John M. Tomeček

Assistant Professor and Extension Wildlife Specialist
The Texas A&M University System

What is Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)?

CWD is a disease that affects the nervous system in white-tailed deer, mule deer, red deer, elk, and moose. The precise origins of CWD are unknown. The condition was first detected in 1967 in a research mule deer herd in Colorado. Today it is present in 22 US states and 2 Canadian provinces. Chronic Wasting Disease is one in a group of diseases called the transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs), such as scrapie in domestic sheep and goats, and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in cattle. CWD cannot be transmitted to humans or livestock. It is caused by type of misfolded protein (prions) which causes host animals to replicate the misfolded protein. Prions interrupt and degrade nerve cells and ultimately eliminate basic nervous system functions, leading to death.

What are the symptoms?

Symptoms appear from 16 to 36 months after infection. These include:

- Emaciation or generally poor body condition
- Decreased activity and/or erratic behavior
- Wide, low stances and blank expressions
- Excessive drinking and urination
- Salivation and grinding of teeth
- Keeping distance from the herd
- Loss of fear of humans

Because these symptoms are common to a number of diseases, positive diagnosis requires laboratory testing by a trained professional.

How is it spread?

Chronic Wasting Disease is spread among susceptible animals by direct and indirect contact with saliva, urine, feces, or a carcass. These prion-

carrying sources are deposited on the ground and in the soil, and can be picked up by other animals during foraging. Research indicates that some plants bind prions and that antler rubs may spread them. Thus, reservoirs of prions in the environment enable transmission. Though mother-offspring transmission is possible, lateral transmission between two animals is the typical route for infection.

Can CWD affect livestock or humans?

No. Although it is good to be cautious, there is no indication that CWD can be transmitted to domestic livestock or humans. While red deer, an exotic livestock animal, can be infected with CWD, traditional livestock, such as cattle, sheep, goats, etc., cannot.

Nevertheless, experts advise hunters to harvest only healthy looking animals. Sickly looking animals should be assessed for diseases and not eaten. Prions accumulate densely in the brain, eyes, tonsils, spine, spleen, and lymph nodes of sick animals. Carefully avoid touching or consuming these parts. In areas affected by CWD, bone out carcasses in a way that removes all nervous system tissue. Be sure not to cut meat with saws or knives that were used to cut bone. To prevent exposing other susceptible animals to infected material, bury the carcass at least 6 feet deep or dispose of it in an approved landfill.

What should I do if I see an animal that might have CWD?

1. Do not attempt to touch, kill, or move the animal in any way.
2. Carefully document the animal's location and any other pertinent details.

3. Immediately contact the nearest Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Game Warden or Wildlife Biologist or the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC).
4. If directed to send a sample for testing by TPWD or TAHC, contact your local veterinarian for advice and professional assistance in collecting the sample.
5. Follow any instructions given by those agencies for follow-up.
6. Continue to be vigilant for future cases of potentially infected animals.

What are the recommended treatment and prevention strategies for CWD?

There is no vaccine to prevent infection and, once infected, there are no effective treatments. Although researchers are working to develop such tools, the way to prevent the spread of CWD, for now, is to manage susceptible animal populations. The easiest solutions are to, (1) remove and properly dispose of potentially infected animals, (2) prevent high densities of susceptible animals by continuing to hunt and harvest, and (3) minimize places where susceptible animals congregate, such as feeding stations.

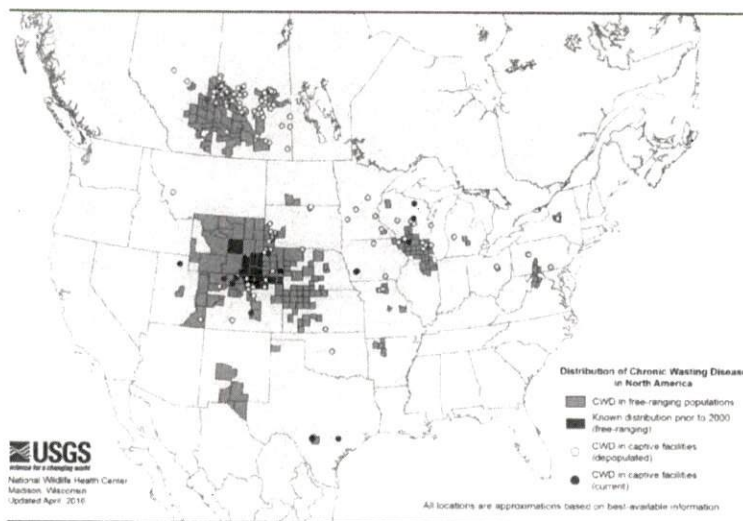
How can I help?

The best way to help is to be vigilant and carefully follow any requests or regulations from Texas Parks and Wildlife or the Texas Animal Health Commission. Preventing CWD provides the best chance to

minimizing the spread of the disease. Encourage fellow Texans to remain calm, and work to prevent the spread of misinformation. The resources below provide detailed, factual information on CWD.

Resources:

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/diseases/cwd/
 Texas Animal Health Commission
www.tahc.state.tx.us/animal_health/cwd/cwd.html
 Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service:
 Wildlife and Fisheries Extension Unit
www.wildlife.tamu.edu/cwd
 Texas Veterinary Medicine Diagnostic Laboratory
www.tvmdl.tamu.edu
 Chronic Wasting Disease Alliance
www.cwd-info.org



Source: Chronic Wasting Disease Alliance (www.cwd-info.org)

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

AgriLifeExtension.tamu.edu

More Extension publications can be found at AgriLifeBookstore.org

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

TPWD receives funds from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. TPWD prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, disability, age, and gender, pursuant to state and federal law. To request an accommodation or obtain information in an alternative format, please contact TPWD on a Text Telephone (TDD) at (512) 389-8915 or by Relay Texas at 7-1-1 or (800) 735-2989. If you believe you have been discriminated against by TPWD, please contact TPWD or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office for Diversity and Workforce Management, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041.

New



Enfermedad Crónica Debilitante

John M. Tomeček, Profesor Asistente y Extensionista Especializado en Fauna Silvestre

Carlos González, Estudiante Ph.D.

El Sistema Universitario Texas A&M

¿Qué es la enfermedad crónica debilitante (ECD)?

La ECD es una enfermedad que afecta el sistema nervioso en venados cola blanca, venado burra, ciervo rojo, ciervo canadiense, y el alce americano. El origen de la enfermedad se desconoce. La condición fue detectada por primera vez en 1967 en una manada de venado burra de investigación en Colorado. Actualmente está presente en 22 estados en EEUU y 2 provincias canadienses. La enfermedad crónica debilitante pertenece a un grupo de enfermedades llamada encefalopatía espongiiforme transmisible (EET), tal como temblor en ovejas domésticas y chivas, y encefalopatía espongiiforme bovina (EEB) en ganado. La ECD no puede ser transmitida a humanos o animales domésticos. Es causada por priones, un tipo de proteína malformada que causa que el animal huésped replique las proteínas malformadas. Los priones interrumpen y degradan células nerviosas, eliminando funciones básicas del sistema nervioso, lo cual causa la muerte.

¿Cuáles son los síntomas?

Los síntomas se presentan de 16 a 36 meses después de la infección. Estos incluyen:

- Adelgazamiento o condición corporal pobre
- Disminución de actividad y/o comportamiento errático
- Posturas bajas o agachados e inexpressivas
- Excesivo consumo de agua y mucha orina
- Salivación y rechino de los dientes
- Manteniéndose apartados del hato
- Pérdida de miedo a los humanos

Debido a que estos síntomas son comunes en otras enfermedades, un diagnóstico positivo solamente es posible mediante pruebas de laboratorio por personal capacitado.

¿Cómo se propaga?

La enfermedad crónica debilitante se contagia entre animales susceptibles o por contacto directo o indirecto con saliva, orina, heces y carcasas. Estas son fuentes que tienen priones, los cuales son depositados en el suelo, y pueden ser recogidos por otros animales durante el consumo de forraje. Investigaciones indican que algunas plantas pueden mantener los priones y que se pueden propagar cuando los venados rascan sus astas contra la planta. De esa manera, reservorios de priones en el ambiente facilitan la transmisión. Aunque es posible la transmisión madre a cría, la transmisión lateral entre dos animales es la ruta típica de infección.

¿Puede ECD afectar al ganado y a humanos?

No. Aunque se recomienda tomar precauciones, no hay ninguna indicación que ECD puede ser transmitida a animales domésticos o a humanos. Mientras que el ciervo rojo, un animal exótico, puede ser infectado con ECD, el ganado tradicional (vacas, ovejas, cabras, etc.) no pueden ser infectados.

Sin embargo, expertos recomiendan a los cazadores solo cosechar animales con apariencia física saludable. Los animales con síntomas de enfermedad deberán ser diagnosticados y no deben ser utilizados para consumo. El cerebro, ojos, amígdalas, columna, bazo, y ganglios linfáticos, no deben ser consumidos ya que ahí se acumulan los priones en altas densidades. Se debe evitar el contacto con estas partes. Maneje la carcasa de tal manera que sea deshuesado y removidas todas las partes del sistema nervioso en áreas con ECD. Asegure no cortar la carne con serrucho o cuchillos que se usaron para cortar huesos. Para prevenir la exposición de animales susceptibles a material infecto, deshágase de la carcasa enterrándolo al menos 6 pies (1.8 metros) debajo del suelo o deséchelo en un vertedero aprobado.

¿Qué debo de hacer si veo un animal que pueda tener ECD?

1. No intente tocar, matar, o mover el animal de ninguna manera.
2. Documente cuidadosamente la ubicación del animal y otros detalles pertinentes.
3. Comuníquese de inmediato con el guardabosques del Departamento de Parques y Fauna de Texas más cercano (*Texas Parks and Wildlife Department—TPWD*) o biólogo de fauna silvestre, o la Comisión de Salud Animal de Texas (*Texas Animal Health Commission—TAHC*).
4. Si se le indica mandar muestras para pruebas por TPWD o TAHC, contacte su veterinario local para asesoría y asistencia profesional al coleccionar la muestra.
5. Prosiga con cualquier instrucción de seguimiento indicada por las agencias.
6. Manténgase alerta por potenciales casos futuros de animales infectados.

¿Cuáles son los tratamientos y las estrategias de prevención para ECD?

No hay vacuna que pueda prevenir la enfermedad, y una vez infectados no hay tratamiento efectivo para la cura de animales. A pesar de que se continúa con investigaciones para desarrollar tales herramientas, la manera de prevenir la propagación de ECD es por medio de manejo de poblaciones susceptibles. Las soluciones más fáciles son (1) remover y desechar de manera adecuada animales potencialmente enfermos, (2) prevenir poblaciones de cérvidos en densidades altas por medio de la continuación de cacería y cosecha de animales, y (3) minimizar lugares donde animales susceptibles puedan concentrarse, tal como lo son comederos.

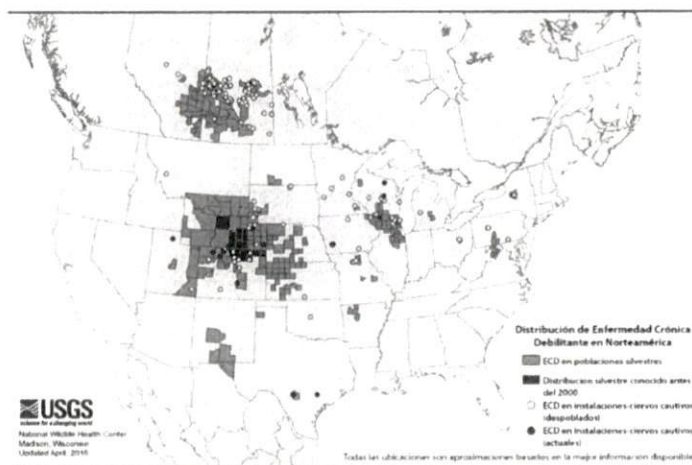
¿Cómo puedo ayudar?

La mejor manera para ayudar es permanecer alerta y seguir indicaciones o reglamentos por parte del Departamento

de Parques y Fauna Silvestre de Texas o la Comisión de Salud Animal de Texas. La prevención de ECD es la mejor posibilidad para minimizar la propagación de la enfermedad. Aliente sus compañeros texanos mantener calma y trabajar para prevenir la difusión de información errónea. Las siguientes fuentes proveen información correcta y detallada sobre el ECD.

Recursos:

Departamento de Parques y Fauna Silvestre de Texas (*Texas Parks and Wildlife Department*)
tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/diseases/cwd/
 Comisión de Salud Animal de Texas (*Texas Animal Health Commission*)
www.tahc.state.tx.us/animal_health/cwd/cwd.html
 Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service: Unidad de Extensión de Pesca y Fauna Silvestre (*Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service: Wildlife and Fisheries Extension Unit*)
www.wildlife.tamu.edu/cwd
 Laboratorio de Diagnóstico Médico Veterinario de Texas (*Texas Veterinary Medicine Diagnostic Laboratory*)
www.tvmdl.tamu.edu
 Alianza de Enfermedad Crónica Debilitante (*Chronic Wasting Disease Alliance*)
www.cwd-info.org



Fuente: Chronic Wasting Disease Alliance (www.cwd-info.org)

El Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service provee igualdad de oportunidades en sus programas y empleo, a todas personas sin hacer distinción por motivos de raza, color, sexo, religión, origen nacional, discapacidad, edad, información genética, condición de veterano, orientación sexual o identidad de género.

TPWD recibe fondos del Servicio de Pesca y Vida Silvestre de EE.UU. (USFWS por sus siglas en inglés). TPWD prohíbe la discriminación por raza, color, religión, nacionalidad de origen, discapacidad, edad y género, de conformidad con la ley estatal y federal. Para solicitar una acomodación especial u obtener información en un formato alternativo, por favor contacte a TPWD en un Teléfono de Texto (TDD) al (512) 389-8915 ó por medio de "Relay Texas al 7-1-1 ó (800) 735-2989. Si usted cree que TPWD ha discriminado en contra suya, favor de comunicarse con TPWD o con el Servicio de Pesca y Vida Silvestre de EE.UU., Office for Diversity and Workforce Management, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041.



Nuevo

Carcass Disposal Practices to Manage Chronic Wasting Disease

John M. Tomeček

Assistant Professor and Extension Wildlife Specialist,
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

The most important practice for managing Chronic Wasting Disease is to prevent the movement of prions (which cause CWD) to new areas. Because carcasses can be a source of this disease causing material on the landscape, it is critical to create a barrier between infectious tissues and susceptible species. Prions do not degrade with time, so the barrier must be as effective and long-lasting as possible.

Carcasses from areas with CWD should **never** be disposed of on the landscape in non-CWD areas.

Carcass disposal practices

It is essential to dispose of carcasses in way that limits exposure of susceptible species to prions and prevents the movement of infectious materials to other areas. The following are practices that the public can use to safely dispose of carcasses.

1. On-site disposal

a. Burying

One practical method is to bury the carcass at the kill site. Burial should be deep enough to prevent scavengers from digging up the carcass and removing it. Many recommend a hole that is at least 6 feet deep. Some use shallower pits, and then cover carcass parts with ready-mix concrete or stone fill. In either case, the barrier should be sufficient to minimize exposing the soil surface to carcass parts.

A single trench can be used throughout a hunting season. After carcass parts are deposited, a layer of soil may be laid over the parts to limit

scavenger exposure. At the end of hunting season, the trench should be filled in completely.

b. Landscape disposal

If burial is not possible, you can dispose of carcass parts on the landscape. This should be done as close to the kill site as possible without removing infectious tissues from the site. Although it does not help prevent future infections on that location, it minimizes the chance of moving CWD to areas it has not previously inhabited.

2. Off-site disposal

a. Landfill or trash service

The preferred off-site disposal location is an approved landfill. Using this location typically involves transporting the carcass to the landfill, or depositing it in an approved trash service's container. Carcass parts are then buried deep in the earth—this should create a permanent barrier against future infection. It is essential that the landfill or trash service be approved and willing to accept carcass parts from hunters. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) maintains a list of in-state facilities that are permitted to accept carcass parts.

b. Incineration or chemical digestion

Though incineration or chemical digestion are the optimal methods, the needed facilities are usually found only at research facilities or laboratories and may not be available to private citizens.

- 1) Incineration requires temperatures in excess of 2000 °F, which is typically achieved in a crematorium. Pasture incineration is unlikely to expose the entire carcass to adequate sustained temperatures. Pasture incineration is also problematic because residual ash must also be disposed of properly.
- 2) Chemical digestion is a method used by research facilities and diagnostic laboratories to safely dispose of infectious tissues by using high concentrations of sodium hydroxide. The equipment required for this method is expensive and the required permits are difficult to obtain. If you think you can conduct either of these methods privately, consult with a regulatory official to be certain you are in compliance with state and federal laws.

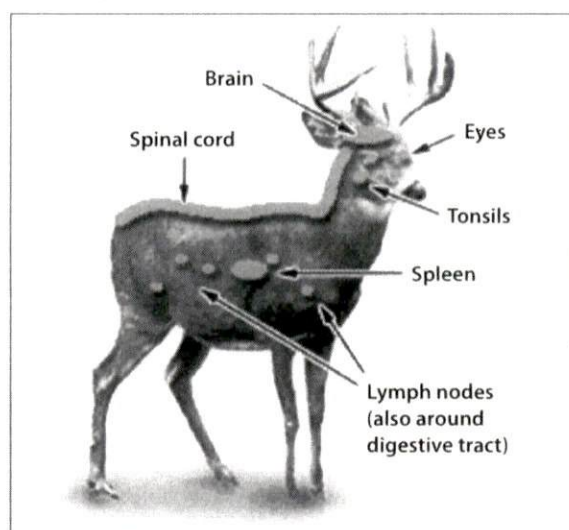
Proper carcass handling

Although there is no proven susceptibility of humans to CWD, deer sometimes carry other diseases that can be spread to humans. You need to observe the safety precautions listed below when processing your own wild game.

- Cover all open wounds.
- Wear latex or rubber gloves when processing game.
- Keep mouth and nose covered.
- After processing, disinfect tools with 2 parts household chlorine bleach to 3 parts water solution. Rinse well with water.
- For CWD concerns, debone and remove all nervous system tissues (Diagram 1).
 - Use separate instruments to cut meat, and bone and/or nervous system tissue.

If you do not process your own carcass, consider asking your processor to process your animal individually.

Remember, state regulations determine when and to what degree carcasses may be processed. These instructions are designed to limit the spread of CWD—you should always follow local game laws as well.



1. Diagram of tissues to be removed and safely disposed.
Image Courtesy of Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

If you see a sick deer

Any wild animal that appears ill or behaves abnormally should be reported to your local Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologist or game warden. Although it may not be CWD, it could be the symptoms of an outbreak of some other disease, such as anthrax or blue tongue. Hunters' observations in the field are the most important resource for managing diseases of Texas wildlife.

Resources

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

<http://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/diseases/cwd/>
(512) 389-4800

Texas Animal Health Commission

http://tahc.state.tx.us/animal_health/cwd/cwd.html
1-800-550-8242

Texas Veterinary Medicine Diagnostic Laboratory

<http://tvmdl.tamu.edu>

Chronic Wasting Disease Alliance

<http://cwg-info.org>

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension: Wildlife Unit

<http://wildlife.tamu.edu>

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New



ATTENTION Hunters

Due to the recent releases information regarding a confirmed case of CWD in Val Verde County please review the following procedures and map (link)to make sure we comply with Texas Parks and Wildlife Regulations.

Regulations:

No CWD susceptible species carcasses or parts of carcasses can transported out of the zone except cut quarters with all brain and spinal cord tissue removed, boned meat that is cut and wrapped, capped hides with skulls not attached, skull plate with antlers attached clean of all soft tissue, and finished taxidermy products.

Check Point Information:

1-MANDATORY to get your deer tested with 48 hours at the check point if deer is harvested within the containment and surveillance zone.

2- Please get your deer tested within 48 hrs of harvest even if you are outside the zone! It is vital to get as many deer tested as possible.

Check point is located at Fisherman's Headquarters. Hours are 9 am to 7 pm!

If you see any malnourished deer or deer acting funny please contact a Game Warden or the Check Point Number: 830-353-2539

For check point information and a map of the zones go to:

<https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/hunting/cwd/val-verde-county-check-stations>

Val Verde County Check Station and Containment and Surveillance Zones

