

# Chronic Wasting Disease Testing Information



## 2017 REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES

Colorado Parks and Wildlife offers CWD testing as a service to hunters throughout the state of Colorado. Heads must be submitted during business hours at a designated submission site. There are NO self-service submission sites available.

**For 2017, testing is MANDATORY for the following: all rifle season buck hunters licensed for Game Management Units (GMU) 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 33, 61, 62, 64, 65, 131, 191, 211, and 231 who harvest a buck are required to submit their deer head or have a CWD sample taken. In addition, all deer hunters in GMU 33 who harvest a deer of either sex are required to submit their deer head or have a CWD sample taken.**

Aside from these GMUs, submitting a deer harvested from elsewhere is VOLUNTARY for the 2017 seasons. Elk and moose CWD testing also is VOLUNTARY in ALL units in Colorado for 2017. The voluntary testing fee is \$25 per head when submitted at a CPW submission site and may be submitted at any submission site regardless of where in Colorado the animal was harvested.

Animals harvested in states other than Colorado will NOT be accepted at Colorado submission sites. Animals from other states may be tested at Colorado State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (CSUVDL). Please contact CSUVDL directly for information on fees and submission details.

**Please plan to allow at least three weeks (15 business days) from the date a head is submitted for results to become available.** Test results for deer and elk usually require at least 10 business days from the date the sample is received at the laboratory. Moose require at least 15 business days (three weeks minimum) from the time the sample reaches the laboratory. At times there may be additional time required for heads/samples to be transported from submission sites to the laboratory. As soon as results are known they will be available on the Colorado Parks and Wildlife web page.

## SUBMISSION DETAILS

### HARVEST DATE AND LOCATION INFORMATION

What to bring to the CPW submission site:

- 1) **Hunting License.** You must bring your hunting license so CPW can obtain the information on your license. If someone else submits your deer head, they must bring a copy of your hunting license or Customer Identification (CID) number, but the carcass tag that came with your license should remain with the carcass.
- 2) **Location of Harvest** (GPS coordinates or map location). You will be asked for the GMU, date of harvest, and the geographic coordinates (Lat/Long or UTM) of where you harvested your deer. If coordinates are not available, you will be asked to show where the deer was harvested on a map at the submission site.

## **ANIMAL PARTS REQUIRED FOR TESTING**

Hunters should avoid shooting the animal in the head when possible as tissues may be destroyed, rendering the animal unsuitable for testing. Remove the animal's head from the neck 2 to 4 inches below the skull. If you wish to have a mount made of the head, you (or a taxidermist) may skin the head and remove the skull cap with the antlers attached. CPW will not remove antlers or capes for hunters.

Please wrap the exposed brain and skull with cheese cloth or other material to prevent the brain from falling out of the skull. Lymph nodes are used for testing but the brain stem or tonsils may also be used if lymph nodes are unavailable.

Hunters should be prepared to leave the head until a sample can be taken. You may have to wait up to a day to get your head back.

## **GUIDELINES TO ENSURE SUITABLE SAMPLES**

Avoid shooting the animal in the head.

When removing the head, leave 2 to 4 inches of the neck below the lower jawbone and base of the skull.

Whole brains or pieces of brain are not accepted for testing.

Keep heads cool and avoid freezing if possible.

Submit heads as soon as possible (within 5 days is recommended).

Hunters may remove the antlers/skull cap, but remember to comply with all antler point regulations.