What Is CWD?

• Belongs to a family of neurological diseases called *transmissible spongiform encephalopathies* which include scrapie in sheep, mad cow disease in cattle and Creutzfeldt–Jakob disease in humans. *There is no evidence that CWD is transmissible to humans; however the CDC advises against consuming any animal that appears ill.*

• All members of the *Cervid family* (white-tailed deer, black-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, moose, reindeer) are known to be susceptible.

• Caused by a misfolded protein called a prion which could be found in all deer bodily fluids.

• There is no cure. CWD is always fatal and there is no live test for deer.

Where Is CWD Found?

• First discovered in captive mule deer in Colorado, in 1967.

• Now in captive or wild deer in 26 states and Canadian provinces.


How New Jersey Is Responding

• Tested for CWD in symptomatic captive cervids and wild deer, and hunter-harvested wild deer since 1997. To date over 7,200 wild deer have been tested with no CWD-positive results.

• Banned the importation of cervids, recently expanded to include reindeer.

• Issued an advisory for New Jersey hunters bringing home venison from CWD-endemic states making it illegal to import into New Jersey a harvested deer carcass or deer parts from any state with CWD in wild deer unless strictly following that state’s CWD protocol.

• Improved captive cervid regulations, including a proposed Herd Certification Program.

• Created the CWD Response Plan with protocols for detection of CWD to be activated when CWD is within 20 miles of the New Jersey border and within the state wild deer and captive cervids.
Please Print Clearly

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Working to protect the environment through renewable and natural resource conservation.

Contact John Erndl, President (732) 616-5137 or email: john.erndl@ubnj.org
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Chronic Wasting Disease in North America

Areas with CWD infected Cervid populations
States/Provinces where CWD has been found in captive populations

If you care about:
• Wise management of fish and wildlife populations
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• Preservation of traditional outdoor sports

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See NJFishandWildlife.com/cwdinfo.htm for more information on CWD in New Jersey and the New Jersey CWD Response Plan.
Visit cwd-info.org for more comprehensive CWD information.