

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE:

INFORMATION FOR THE RHODE ISLAND HUNTER

New regulations have been implemented regarding importing, releasing, feeding and baiting of cervids* in Rhode Island due to the threat of chronic wasting disease. Although CWD has not been documented in Rhode Island, the disease was confirmed in New York in March 2005 and in West Virginia in September 2005. The new regulations are summarized here. For the complete text, see:

www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bnatres/fishwild/wlcwdidx.htm.

*members of the family Cervidae, including white-tailed deer, mule deer, black-tailed deer, elk, moose, caribou, and reindeer.

REGULATIONS FOR POSSESSING OR IMPORTING CERVID PARTS AND CARCASSES IN RHODE ISLAND		
Cervids from CWD Endemic Areas (any state, or county bordering a state, where CWD has been diagnosed—see map on reverse):	PROHIBITED	Possessing or importing: •Brain, eyes, spinal cord, lymph nodes, tonsils or spleen.
	PERMITTED	Possessing or importing: •The hide or cape, the skull-cap with antlers attached, the antlers, finished taxidermy, tanned hides, and the upper canine. •Meat that is boned, cut up, and packaged , and not mixed with the meat of any other animal.
Cervids from Non-CWD Areas:	PROHIBITED	Possessing or importing: •Brain, eyes, spinal cord, lymph nodes, tonsils or spleen from any captive or captive bred cervid originating outside of Rhode Island.
	PERMITTED	Possessing or importing: •Any parts or carcasses from wild cervids. •Any parts or carcasses from captive or captive bred cervids originating from Rhode Island .

Requirements for Marking Imported Carcasses and Parts:

All carcasses and parts of any cervid imported into Rhode Island must have a legible label bearing the following information: the species of animal, the State, Province or Country where the animal was taken or where the shipment originated, the name of the person who took the animal or the name of the shipper, the address of the taker or shipper and, for transport through the State, the destination of the shipment. Hunter harvested carcasses, parts or meat taken outside Rhode Island shall also bear the marking, tagging or labeling required by the State where the animal was taken.

Feeding and Baiting Cervids in Rhode Island: No person shall feed cervids at any time in Rhode Island except:

- Under a license or permit issued by the Department of Environmental Management for scientific research within an enclosed pen;
- By planting, cultivating, or harvesting of crops directly associated with agricultural practices, including planted wildlife food plots;
- By distribution of food materials for livestock directly associated with agricultural practices;
- By distribution of food material for legally possessed captive cervids, pursuant to a permit;
- By cutting of trees or brush;
- By elevated bird/squirrel feeders providing seed, grain, fruit, worms, or suet for birds or squirrels located within 100 feet of an occupied dwelling.

Distribution of Certain Food Materials: No person shall feed wild or captive cervids with any material that contains protein derived from any mammalian tissues.

Rhode Island CWD Surveillance

Deer heads will again be collected during the upcoming deer season. **Your cooperation is essential.** We cannot be declared CWD-free without meeting our quota for deer testing. Hunters submitting fresh deer heads must supply the following information: Name, address, location of harvest, date, sex & age of deer.