



## Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Surveillance Rhode Island

### INTRODUCTION

Recent outbreaks of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in wild Cervids (deer) in other states has required Rhode Island to conduct monitoring of our wild deer herd in order to allow early detection and rapid response should we discover an outbreak here. Once the disease develops there is no treatment and it is always fatal in deer. No cases of human disease associate with CWD have been reported. Early detection and rapid response is critical if we are to keep our deer herd healthy and free of this disease. The ecological and economic importance of this surveillance effort is vital to all sportsmen, livestock owners and the general public who enjoy deer. All testing is coordinated by the RI DEM Division of Fish and Wildlife.

### SURVEILLANCE GOAL

Our surveillance goal is to obtain fresh tissue samples from harvested or dead deer in all areas of Rhode Island to test for CWD. We will target samples that include hunter harvested deer, any “sick” deer reported and road kills. We ask the public to report any sick deer (poor body condition with ribs showing, drooping head and ears and excessive drooling) immediately to the DEM Fish and Wildlife **789-0281** or Environmental Police at **222-3070**.

### HOW WE COLLECT SAMPLES

- **Tissue Samples** will be collected from recently harvested deer taken to state operated biological deer check stations by extracting and removing the **retropharyngeal lymph nodes** from the neck of the deer. Removal of the lymph nodes will require only minimal invasion of the deer carcass and will not damage meat in any way.
- Samples will be collected from each five RI-Counties as well as Block Island and Prudence Island.
- Samples are collected only from Adult and Yearling deer and no fawns (button bucks or does) will be tested.
- Sample will also be collected from butchers throughout the state during the fall deer seasons.
- Hunter cooperation and assistance is vital to our success and we appreciate your cooperation! Hunters wishing to have a deer tested for CWD should contact Fish and Wildlife to submit a sample. We require: Hunter Name, address, phone number, location of harvest, date, age, and sex of the animal.

<u>COUNTY:</u>	<u>Tissue Samples Needed:</u>
Providence Co	70
Kent Co	35
Washington Co	70
Newport/Bristol Co	11
Prudence Island	6
Block Island	8



For information on submitting a sample or any CWD or deer related question contact:  
 Brian Tefft, Principal Wildlife Biologist  
 Deer Project Leader  
 Great Swamp Field Headquarters – 277 Great Neck Road  
 West Kingston, RI 02892  
 Telephone: 401-789-0281 or email at: [brian.tefft@dem.ri.gov](mailto:brian.tefft@dem.ri.gov)

- For more information on CWD: <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bnatres/fishwild/pdf/cwdbroch.pdf>

<http://www.cwd-info.org/>