

CWD Surveillance – Deer Head Submission

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) was confirmed in Fairfax County during the 2022-2023 deer season and the county (to include Fort Belvoir) is now included in Disease Management Area 2 (DMA2). We will be conducting CWD surveillance for deer harvested on Fort Belvoir. Head samples will be collected by hunters and placed in a freezer in accordance with protocols set by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources.

- **ALL JAWBONES STILL GET REMOVED AND PLACED IN COOLER WITH JAWBONE TAG AT WEIGH STATION BEHIND 778 ODR.**
- Submit the **head of the deer plus 4-6 inches of attached neck** to the head drop station (about a palm's width below the jawline) located at Bldg 780. Do not cut right at the jawline. If you have multiple deer heads, bag each head separately. **See special instructions for antlered bucks.**
- Remove the head after weighing deer at Bldg 778 ODR.
- Only yearlings (1.5 years) and adult deer will be tested for CWD. **Fawns will not be tested** and should not be submitted (this includes button bucks). Both bucks and does will be accepted.
- **Special Instructions for Antlered Bucks**

If you plan to mount the head, do not follow the guidelines above. Instead, take your deer to a taxidermist or prepare as you normally would. Tell the taxidermist you are having the deer tested for CWD and ask them to save the head and 4 inches of neck (minus the hide). Pick up the head from the taxidermist and submit it to the head drop station for sampling after it has been caped out. You must record the antler points on the CWD surveillance data card.

For euro mounts, remove the head/neck per the regular guidelines and contact staff to see if they are available to meet you to sample the deer after your hunt or schedule an alternate day/time to meet. You can also place the head in the freezer with antlers intact (if it will fit) and a note inside the zip lock bag that you want it back for a euro mount. Freezer space may be limited depending on the number of heads.

If you are not having the buck mounted, remove the antlers prior to bagging. You can keep the antlers and skull cap but must record the antler points on the CWD surveillance card.

- Freezers will be locked to prevent public access. Hunters will need to put in the code to unlock the freezer and relock before leaving. Hunters will be provided the code via email. (TO BE DETERMINED)
- Freezer temperatures will be adjusted to function as refrigerators. Deer heads will not be completely frozen – this is intentional for sampling purposes.
- At the head drop station, there are specific instructions for filling out a CWD Surveillance Card and bagging the deer head. Follow these instructions or it will not be tested.
- **CWD Cards**

Complete the Hunter Information Section, the sex of the deer, and Notes Section ONLY. Leave the map grid # and all other fields and circles blank – staff must complete them.

For each deer head, you will be required to submit the following:

- Your **DWR** Customer ID (Big Game License) # and **DWR** Check Card/Confirmation #
 - First Name & Last Name
 - Phone number (in case DWR needs to contact you)
 - Your home address
 - Date of harvest (date the deer was killed)
 - County of harvest (Fairfax County)
 - Fill in circle for Male or Female deer. If male, write in the # of antler points in the empty space of this box under “Unknown.” There is not a separate section for antler points.
 - Write **“FORT BELVOIR”** in the **Notes section**
 - **If the information above is not provided, the deer will not be tested.**
- Staff will check freezers and collect heads on a weekly basis (more often if needed). If a freezer is full when you arrive or needs restocking, please contact staff below.

