

WHAT IS CWD?

Chronic wasting disease is a rare neurological disease that's been found in a small percentage of deer and elk in portions of Colorado, Kansas, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Wyoming, as well as in the Canadian provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta.

A progressive disease, it attacks the brains of deer and elk, causing the animals to become emaciated, display abnormal behavior, lose bodily functions and die. Clinical symptoms also may include loss of appetite, increased drinking, excessive drooling and urination, nervousness, teeth grinding, and drooping head and ears. Some of these symptoms can be caused by other diseases, and cannot be used to positively determine whether an animal has chronic wasting disease.

Scientists suspect that CWD is transferred from one deer or elk to another through contact with saliva, feces or urine, but are unsure exactly how this happens. People cannot get the disease by being near infected animals, walking through areas known to have infected deer or elk, drinking the water in infected areas, or any other normal daily activity.



NO RISK TO HUMANS DOCUMENTED

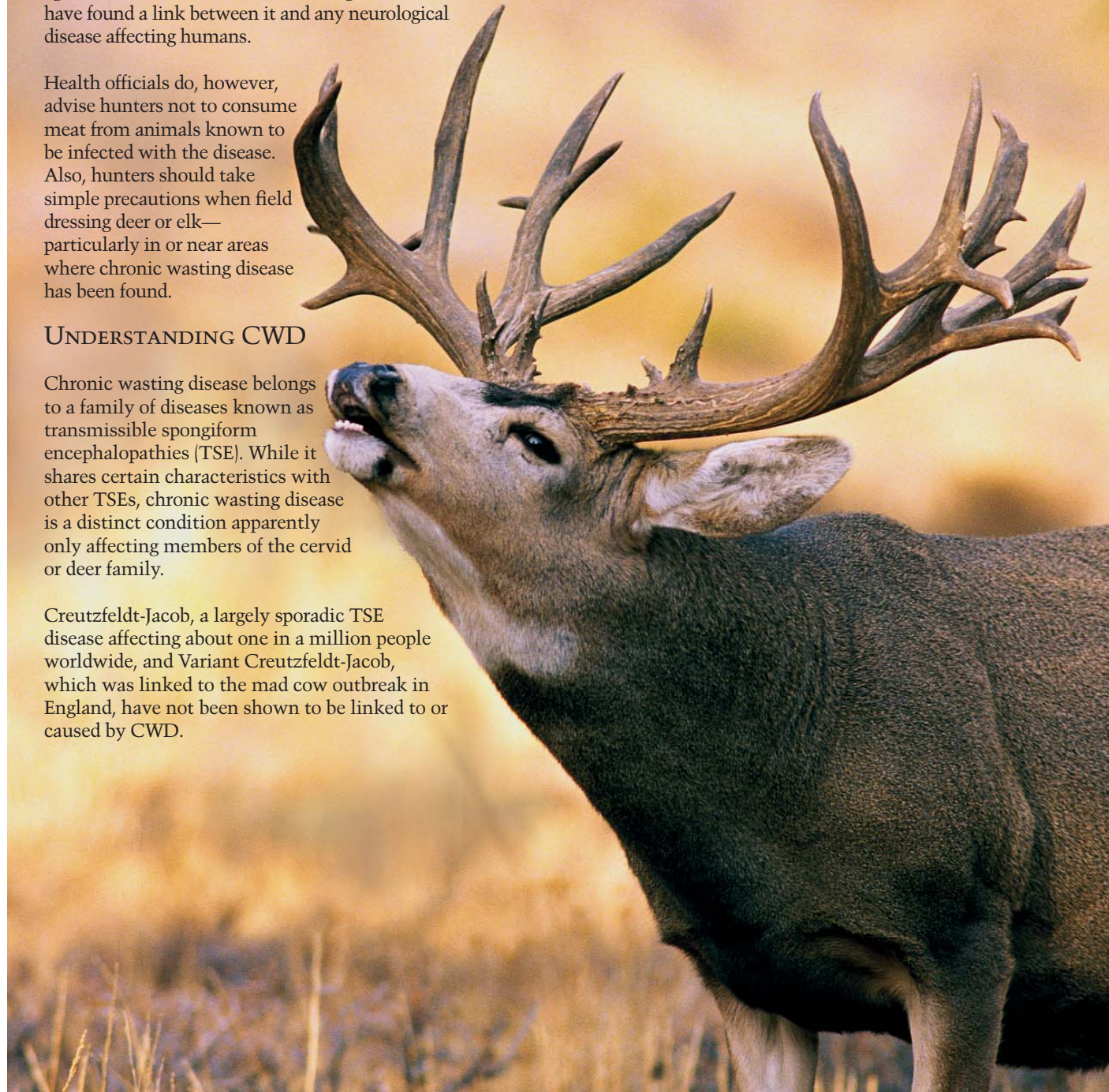
The World Health Organization, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, the National Institutes of Health, many universities and about a dozen state public health agencies have studied chronic wasting disease. None have found a link between it and any neurological disease affecting humans.

Health officials do, however, advise hunters not to consume meat from animals known to be infected with the disease. Also, hunters should take simple precautions when field dressing deer or elk—particularly in or near areas where chronic wasting disease has been found.

UNDERSTANDING CWD

Chronic wasting disease belongs to a family of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE). While it shares certain characteristics with other TSEs, chronic wasting disease is a distinct condition apparently only affecting members of the cervid or deer family.

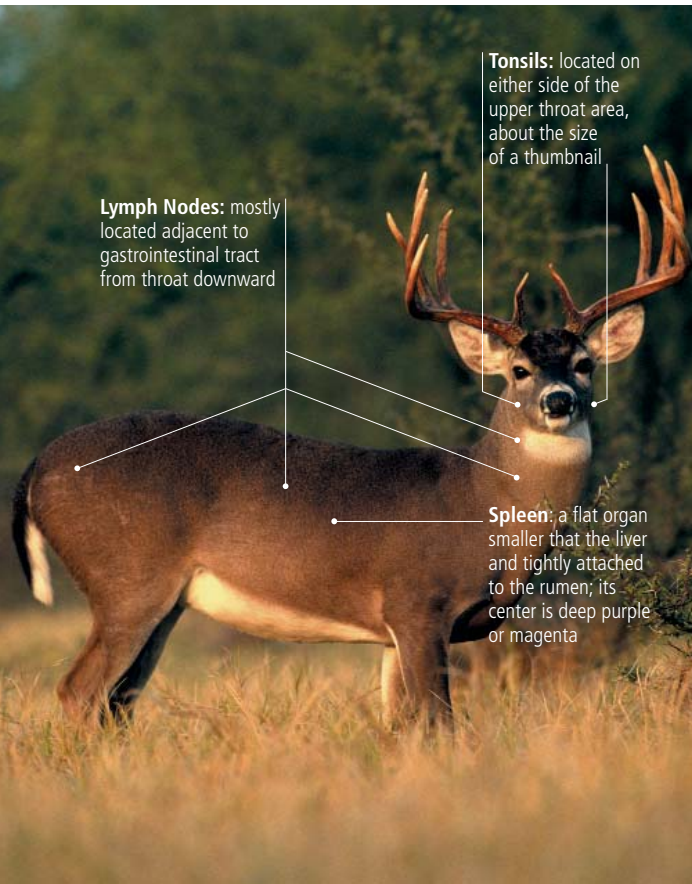
Creutzfeldt-Jacob, a largely sporadic TSE disease affecting about one in a million people worldwide, and Variant Creutzfeldt-Jacob, which was linked to the mad cow outbreak in England, have not been shown to be linked to or caused by CWD.



GENERAL PRECAUTIONS

Public health officials recommend taking four general precautions for deer and elk in or near areas where CWD has been found:

1. Avoid consuming brain, spinal cord, eyes, spleen, tonsils and lymph nodes of harvested animals.
2. Do not eat meat from any animal that appears to be sick or tests positive for chronic wasting disease.
3. Contact your local game and fish department (See contact information below) if you see or harvest an animal that appears to be sick.
4. If your deer is tested for chronic wasting disease, request and wait for test results before eating meat. Please note that most state agencies will be taking a limited number of samples to test for the presence of CWD.



SAFE FIELD DRESSING

Experts also recommend the following field dressing precautions for deer and elk in or near areas where chronic wasting disease has been found:

1. Wear rubber gloves when field dressing carcasses.
2. Do not use household knives or utensils for field dressing. Instead use equipment made for this purpose.
3. Minimize the handling of brain and spinal tissues, and avoid sawing through spine or skull. Should you decide to take the skull cap, clean it thoroughly with a 50/50 bleach-and-water solution.
4. Remove all internal organs and internal fat. Normal field dressing and boning out of carcass will remove most, if not all, of these body parts. Cutting away all fatty tissue will remove the remaining lymph nodes.
5. Bone out meat from your animal.
6. Consult your local game and fish department (See contact information below) regarding proper disposal of hide, brain, spinal cord, eyes, spleen, tonsils, bones and head.
7. Thoroughly clean and then sanitize field dressing instruments with a 50/50 bleach-and-water solution. Knives and other small items should soak in the 50/50 solution for an hour.
8. Wash hands after field dressing, cleaning and sanitizing equipment.
9. Request individual boned-out processing of animals that you harvest, to avoid introduction of meat from other animals.
10. SCI recommends having venison from areas where CWD has been found processed locally so only packaged meat travels across state lines.

TRANSPORTING HARVESTS

Several states have established regulations regarding the transporting of deer and elk from areas where CWD cases have been confirmed. Check with your state game and fish agency for policy, then confirm transportation requirements with the local game and fish officials immediately responsible for the area in which you will be hunting.

