



Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary
Allan Fisher, Deputy Secretary

January 13, 2022

The Honorable Paul Pinsky
Chair, Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West Wing
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Submission of Report on Chronic Wasting Disease
Agency: Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Report Authority: HB 1017, Ch. 297, Section 2 and SB 769, Ch. 298, Section 2, in 2021, §2-1257 of State Government Article (MSAR #13312)

Dear Senator Pinsky and Delegate Barve:

We are pleased to provide you with the Chronic Wasting Disease report. This report summarizes the testing of deer brought to deer processors for chronic wasting disease and fulfills the requirement established in the State Government Article 2-1257, Annotated Code of Maryland.

Should you have any questions or comments regarding this report, please feel free to contact Bunky Luffman directly at 410-689-9165 or bunky.luffman1@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JHR".

Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio
Secretary

Enclosure

cc: Sarah Albert (5 copies)
Bunky Luffman
April Morton
T. Patrick Tracy

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regularly tests white-tailed deer for chronic wasting disease (CWD) in the fall and winter during the muzzleloader and firearm deer hunting seasons.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, DNR did not sample random, hunter-harvested deer for CWD during the 2020-2021 hunting season; however samples were collected from sick deer reported that year. Test results from that time period will be available in spring 2022.

Moreover, normal CWD surveillance has resumed for the 2021-2022 hunting season. As a result, 2019-2020 testing results are provided for purposes of this report.

Summary

DNR sampled 706 deer for CWD during 2019, and detected 28 deer carrying the disease. The 28 positive deer were all from within the existing CWD Management Area (Figure 1). Maryland first detected CWD in November 2010 in Green Ridge State Forest where CWD is present in nearby West Virginia. The department has now detected CWD in 80 deer out of more than 10,000 tested over the past 18 years (Table 1). To date, CWD has only been detected in Allegany and Washington counties.

CWD is a disease of the brain and nervous system that causes death in cervids (deer). CWD is classified as a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy and attacks the brain of cervids, producing small lesions that eventually result in death. The disease historically was a western U.S. disease, but since 2001 has been detected east of the Mississippi River, including Maryland, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. More than 20 states and three Canadian provinces have documented CWD in their cervid populations (free-ranging, captive or both). The disease has also been detected in Finland (free-ranging moose), Norway (free-ranging reindeer) and South Korea (captive elk from Canada). There remains no evidence that humans can contract CWD from deer.

Data from the 2021-2022 season will be incorporated into existing datasets. Analysis is ongoing and continued data collection and assessment will increase our knowledge base and our awareness of this disease.

Table 1. Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Testing Results in Maryland, 2002-2020

Year	No. of Deer Tested	No. of Deer CWD-Positive
2002	300	0
2003	547	0
2004	861	0
2005	974	0
2006	977	0
2007	980	0
2008	996	0
2009	1,057	0
2010	369	1
2011	308	0
2012	271	0

2013	262	1
2014	234	4
2015	295	5
2016	332	6
2017	749	10
2018	561	25
2019	706	28
2020	0	0
Tota		
l	10,779	80

Figure 1. Maryland Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Management Area, 2020-2021

