



## CWD Safety Protocol for Hunters and HSH Participating Processors

Controlling the spread of CWD is of paramount importance to the health and sustainability of Pennsylvania's deer herd. While there has been no connection made between the consumption of deer with CWD and human contraction of the disease, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommend refraining from consumption of CWD-infected deer. For this reason, HSH has long had a protocol in place to ensure that no CWD-infected venison reaches the public food system. The following document is meant to make clear the process by which a hunter can safely and legally donate a deer harvested out-of-state, in a Disease Management Area (DMA) or Established Area (EA). It also details the required handling of donated deer by HSH Participating Processors who are on the Pennsylvania Game Commission's (PGC) list of Approved Cooperators for processing of out-of-state and DMA-harvested deer.

### For Hunters:

For deer harvested outside of Pennsylvania, in a Disease Management Area (DMA) or Established Area (EA), please follow these steps:

- Legally harvest and tag your deer.
- Follow PGC guidelines for responsible field dressing and handling of high-risk parts. See the following link for more information: [www.arcg.is/1G4TLr](http://www.arcg.is/1G4TLr) under "What Hunters Should Know."
- Transport your deer to a HSH Participating Processor that is also a PGC Cooperator – **Note: deer from out-of-state or from a DMA or EA can only be donated at processors who are on both HSH's list of participating processors and the PGC's list of approved cooperators.**
- **You must inform the processor** the deer came from a DMA, EA or out-off-state. You must also check the "Other" box in the Special Tag/Permit area on the HSH donor receipt and write "DMA", "EA" or "OOS" to indicate the donated deer came from a DMA, EA or Out-of-State.
- **You must have your deer tested for CWD** by placing the head (with harvest tag) in a head collection bin (free of charge) or by sending it directly to the lab (a fee will apply). Learn more about this process here: [www.arcg.is/1G4TLr](http://www.arcg.is/1G4TLr) under "Head Bins & Dumpsters."
- **You must provide a copy of the test results to the processor** when you receive the results of the CWD test so the donated venison can be released for distribution or disposed of. The PGC no longer mails "not detected" results. You will need to print the screenshot of your results from the lookup page or otherwise share those results with the processor. This communication back to the processor is critical, as donated venison will be destroyed if the processor doesn't receive test results within a reasonable period.

(continued)

## **For HSH Participating Processors:**

To accept deer harvested out-of-state, from a Disease Management Area (DMA) or Established Area (EA), please follow these steps:

- **Your business must be on the PGC's list of approved cooperators.** The PGC will be sending letters to all processors in August of 2023 with requirements and an application/agreement for you to submit for review and approval.
- Make sure the hunter or your staff check the "Other" box in the Special Tag/Permit area on the HSH donor receipt and write "DMA", "EA" or "OOS" to indicate the donated deer came from a DMA, EA or Out-of-State.
- **The deer must be quarantined** in cold storage while a head test is performed.
  - Testing is the hunter's responsibility.
  - The hunter must provide you with a copy of the head test results when received.
  - If CWD is not detected, the meat can be released to the food banks.
  - If CWD is detected, the meat must be disposed of according to PGC guidelines.
- If a deer found to be positive for CWD was processed before being quarantined, HSH will reimburse you at the agreed rate, even though it had to be destroyed/disposed of.
- If a deer found to be positive for CWD was quarantined as a whole deer, HSH will not reimburse processing expenses.
- You may determine a reasonable period that you will quarantine donated venison, considering that average turnaround times for head tests can approach 4 weeks or more. If a hunter hasn't reported test results back within that time, you can either contact the hunter as a courtesy to check on the status or dispose of the donated venison. ***We ask that every reasonable attempt be made to secure the test results before resorting to disposing of donated meat.***
- To be reimbursed, **you must include a copy of CWD test results with the associated donor receipts** when submitting receipts and your reimbursement form to HSH.

*As an HSH Participating Processor, you have the right to refuse donated deer that were harvested out-of-state, in a DMA or EA if you do not have adequate cold storage to quarantine processed venison or whole deer while awaiting head test results, or if you do not feel you can comply with the above requirements.*

*If you do not wish to accept donated deer from a DMA, EA or out-of-state, please inform HSH at [info@sharedeer.org](mailto:info@sharedeer.org) or 866-474-2141. We will add that note to your business listing on our website.*

*Opting out of accepting donated deer does not affect your ability to accept deer for personal consumption as a PGC Approved Cooperator.*

If you have questions about this protocol, please call 866-474-2141 or email [info@ShareDeer.org](mailto:info@ShareDeer.org).