

How You Can Protect Wildlife from CWD

DON'T FEED DEER

While it is not illegal to feed wild animals, there are many reasons why it is highly discouraged by the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC). One of the reasons is that feeding deer can spread Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).

Although it may seem like a beneficial thing to do, especially during the winter months, feeding deer actually accelerates the spread of CWD because it causes the deer to congregate. The disease is transmitted directly from one animal to another or indirectly from a contaminated surface, such as a deer feeder or salt block. If one infected deer visits a feeder and contaminates it, the entire local population may be at risk.

The prevailing guidance from conservationists and scientists is:

- **Do not feed deer**
- **Do not attract deer**
- **Encourage neighbors and friends to stop feeding/attracting deer**

Use wildlife feeders that exclude deer

It is recommended that any feed placed near your home is done so in a manner to exclude deer from accessing it, such as bird feeders six feet or more above the ground and or feeders designed specifically to exclude deer.

Report sightings

Although rare, there have been cases where CWD positive animals have been identified by a concerned wildlife watcher. If you observe a deer showing emaciation, drooling, or staggering movement, call the St Louis Regional MDC Office at (636) 441-4554.

Get involved

Managing this disease demands significant resources and often requires drastic and long-term measures (culling, increased hunter harvest rates, etc.). Your voice is needed to support the agencies and biologists tasked with fighting this disease by advocating for funding and science-based tactics for CWD control.

For more information:

St Louis Regional MDC Office
2360 Highway D
St Charles MO 63304

(636) 441-4554
stlouis@mdc.mo.gov



Animal & Vector Control
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Office Hours:
Monday - Friday, 7:30am to 4:00pm

This series is published by The City of Arnold, Missouri, Community Development Department, as part of a public information service. CWD information was gathered from Missouri Department of Conservation and Chronic Wasting Disease Alliance resources and publications.

These brochures have no legal status and cannot be used as an official interpretation of the various codes, regulations, and ordinances currently in effect. This is not intended to be an all exhaustive source of information on the subject matter. The City of Arnold accepts no responsibility to persons relying solely on this information.

Wildlife & Conservation

Chronic Wasting Disease



What you need to know.



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Brochures are updated periodically. Contact the Community Development Department to determine if you have the most recent edition.



Dept. of Community Development
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Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a deadly illness in members of the deer family. The disease has been detected in 30 US states, including Missouri, and is slowly spreading.

Missouri's Department of Conservation (MDC) is working with conservation partners to find cases of CWD and limit its spread. The City of Arnold seeks to inform residents of this disease and find ways that we can protect our wildlife.

What is CWD?

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a contagious neurological disease affecting white-tailed deer and other deer species including reindeer, elk, and moose. CWD is 100% fatal and there is no known cure or vaccine.

What causes CWD?

The disease is not caused by a virus or bacteria. CWD is caused by a protein particle, called a prion, that attaches to the brain and spinal cord. Prions are the same type of particle that cause "mad cow disease" in cows. Infected deer suffer degeneration of the brain resulting in emaciation, abnormal behavior, loss of bodily functions, and death.

Resources:

mdc.mo.gov/cwd-cwd-info.org

Can CWD spread to humans?

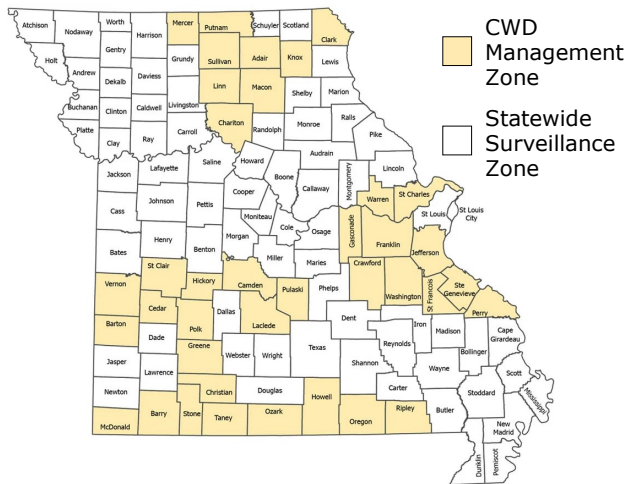
According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), there have been no reported cases of CWD infections in humans. However, some studies suggest the disease poses a risk to certain types of primates (macaque monkeys) that eat meat from an infected deer.

The CDC recommends not consuming meat from animals infected by CWD.

How does CWD spread?

Infected deer shed prions in their droppings and saliva. Direct animal-to-animal contact is one way the disease spreads. Transmission may also occur indirectly through the environment. For example, a deer carcass can contaminate the soil with CWD prions. CWD is extremely resilient in the environment and can stay infectious for years.

Any factor that causes animals to interact with each other at a higher frequency, a higher density, and a prolonged period of time increases the probability that CWD will be spread.



How is CWD being managed?

Since there is no vaccine or cure, options for managing CWD are limited. The best way to control the disease is to prevent its introduction into new areas and restrict its spread. Unnatural congregations of deer in places such as feeders and mineral licks substantially increases the chances of spreading the disease.

What is being done to limit CWD in Jefferson County?

As shown in the map on the front center panel of this brochure, Jefferson County is within a CWD Management Zone set up by the MDC. This means that deer infected with CWD have been directly observed in our county and that additional regulations are in place to reduce the spread of CWD.

Please visit mdc.mo.gov/cwd to find the most up-to-date information on regulations and restrictions within the CWD Management Zone.

The MDC stresses that the best way to help reduce the spread as a resident of a CWD Management county is to not feed or attract deer.

Deer hunters in Jefferson County should be aware of mandatory CWD sampling and carcass movement restrictions. Visit mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/ for more information.