



## NEWS RELEASE

### Texas Animal Health Commission

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For more information contact the Public Information Dept. at 512-719-0750 or at [public\\_info@tahc.texas.gov](mailto:public_info@tahc.texas.gov)

March 15, 2019

# Yearly Exotic CWD Susceptible Species Forms Due April 1st

AUSTIN – The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) would like to remind all owners of premises where exotic chronic wasting disease (CWD) susceptible species are located that annual mortality records and inventory forms are due on or before 12:00 AM, April 1, 2019.

Exotic CWD susceptible species include North American elk or wapiti, black-tailed deer, red deer, reindeer, sika deer, moose and any associated subspecies or hybrids. Axis deer are not classified as a susceptible species.

As part of the May 9, 2017 adopted amendments to §40.5 of the Texas Administrative Code, TAHC added identification and mortality record keeping requirements for exotic CWD susceptible species. A copy of the rule may be viewed at <http://bit.ly/2Dky7KP>.

Statewide surveillance provides valuable information that is critical to early detection of CWD in exotic susceptible species and protects the health and marketability of these animals.

### **Annual Inventory Form**

TAHC rules state that owners of high-fenced premises where exotic CWD susceptible species are located must keep an annual inventory and submit the inventory form to TAHC on or before April 1 of each year.

You may obtain an inventory form on the TAHC website at:

[https://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal\\_health/elk-deer/PDF/13-06\\_ExoticCWDSusceptibleSpeciesInventory.pdf](https://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal_health/elk-deer/PDF/13-06_ExoticCWDSusceptibleSpeciesInventory.pdf)

Completed inventory forms may be submitted by email to [CWD\\_reports@tahc.texas.gov](mailto:CWD_reports@tahc.texas.gov); by fax to (512) 719-0729; or by mail to:

Texas Animal Health Commission  
Attention: CWD Susceptible Species Reporting  
P.O. Box 12966  
Austin, Texas 78711-2966

For further information, contact your local Region Office, <https://www.tahc.texas.gov/agency/TAHCRegionOfficeMap.pdf>, or call TAHC's Traceability Department at 1-800-550-8242 x 777.

### **Annual Mortality Record Form**

TAHC rules state that owners of high-fenced or low-fenced premises where exotic CWD susceptible species are located must submit eligible mortality records (defined in the rule as hunter-harvested or natural mortalities of animals 16 months of age or older) to TAHC on or before April 1 of each year.

Please note that TAHC surveillance rules require the owner of a premises to CWD test all eligible mortalities until such time that three animals are tested each year.

You may obtain a mortality record form on TAHC's website at:

[https://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal\\_health/elk-deer/PDF/17-10\\_ExoticCWDSusceptibleSpeciesMortalityRecord.pdf](https://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal_health/elk-deer/PDF/17-10_ExoticCWDSusceptibleSpeciesMortalityRecord.pdf)

Your own form is acceptable so long as it includes the following:

- Date the exotic CWD susceptible species died or was harvested
- Species, age and gender
- Any RFID or NUES tag number affixed to the animal
- Any other ID number, official or unofficial, on the animal
- The accession number and collection date if a CWD sample was collected

Completed mortality record forms may be submitted by email to [CWD\\_reports@tahc.texas.gov](mailto:CWD_reports@tahc.texas.gov); by fax to (512) 719-0729; and by mail to:

Texas Animal Health Commission  
Attention: CWD Susceptible Species Reporting  
P.O. Box 12966, Austin, Texas 78711-2966

Estimated annual inventory and mortality records must be retained for one year from the date of submission.

### **Testing Requirements & Test Result Reporting**

TAHC rules state that all CWD test samples be collected by a state or federal animal health official, accredited veterinarian or a certified CWD postmortem sample collector; and the samples must be submitted to an official laboratory for all eligible mortalities. The owner must report all test results to their TAHC region office within 30 days of receiving the results. For a list of certified CWD postmortem sample collectors, visit:

[https://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal\\_health/elk-deer/PDF/TAHC\\_CertifiedCWDSampleCollectorContactList.pdf?1.1](https://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal_health/elk-deer/PDF/TAHC_CertifiedCWDSampleCollectorContactList.pdf?1.1)

Exotic CWD Susceptible Species Test Submission forms are available on TAHC's website at:

[https://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal\\_health/elk-deer/PDF/17-11\\_ExoticCWDSusceptibleSpeciesTestSubmission.pdf](https://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal_health/elk-deer/PDF/17-11_ExoticCWDSusceptibleSpeciesTestSubmission.pdf)

Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL) works with wildlife producers and wildlife/animal health agencies across the country to ensure the health of CWD susceptible cervid species through surveillance testing. Further information is available by following the link below:

<https://tvmdl.tamu.edu/2016/08/19/tpwd-alerts-deer-breeders-tvmdl-usda-live-testing-approved-faster-elisa-testing-now-available/>

More information about exotic CWD susceptible species is available at; [www.tahc.texas.gov/animal\\_health/elk-deer/#cwidexotic](http://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal_health/elk-deer/#cwidexotic); through your local [TAHC region office](#); or by calling 1-800-550-8242 x777.

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