



# Exotic CWD Susceptible Species Rules & Regulations

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Question: What are exotic chronic wasting disease (CWD) susceptible species?

Answer: Exotic CWD susceptible species are non-native to Texas cervid species determined to be susceptible to CWD, which means a species that has had a diagnosis of CWD confirmed by an official test conducted at a laboratory approved by USDA/APHIS. This includes North American elk or wapiti, black tailed deer, red deer, reindeer, Sika deer, moose, and any associated subspecies and hybrids. Axis deer are not classified as a susceptible species.

### 2. When were the TAHC surveillance and movement requirements for exotic CWD susceptible species adopted?

On May 30, 2017, the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) adopted amendments to §40.5 of the Texas Administrative Code to add surveillance, movement reporting, identification, and mortality record-keeping requirements for exotic CWD susceptible species.

### 3. Where can I find the TAHC rules?

The rules can be found at

[http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.ViewTAC?tac\\_view=4&ti=4&pt=2&ch=40&rl=Y](http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=4&ti=4&pt=2&ch=40&rl=Y).

## Movement Reporting and Identification Requirements

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### 4. To whom do the TAHC movement reporting and identification requirements apply?

They apply to owners of live exotic CWD susceptible species upon movement or sale of these species.

### 5. What are the TAHC movement reporting and identification requirements?

The requirements are:

- a. All live exotic CWD susceptible species moved or transported within the state must have an official identification device.
- b. In order to move live exotic CWD susceptible species to or from a premises, the owner must obtain a Premise Identification Number (PIN).
- c. An owner of a premises where exotic CWD susceptible species are located within a high fence must keep an estimated [annual inventory](#) and [mortality records](#) for all exotic CWD susceptible species.
- d. A complete [movement record](#) must be kept for all live exotic CWD susceptible species that are moved onto or off a premises and the movement record must be submitted to the TAHC. A person moving exotic CWD susceptible species must have documentation of the cervids being moved to show compliance and a copy of this documentation must be provided to any market selling these species. Please see the “Dealer Requirements” section for more information.



**6. Must I CWD test my exotic CWD susceptible species before moving them?**

No, live exotic CWD susceptible species herds are not required to be tested prior to movement or sale.

**7. What is an official identification device?**

An official identification device for exotic CWD susceptible species includes an eartag that conforms to the USDA alphanumeric national uniform ear tagging system (NUES), a visible and legible animal identification number (AIN) or other identification methods approved by the TAHC, including radio frequency identification devices (RFID).

**8. How do I obtain a Premises Identification Number (PIN) or Location Identification Number (LID)?**

To obtain a PIN or LID, contact the TAHC Animal Disease Traceability department at 1-800-550-8242 ext. 733 or contact your TAHC Region Office. PINs and LIDs are both administered location identifiers that adhere to the federal standards. LIDs are state-issued location identifiers and PINs are federally issued location identifiers. To learn more about LIDs and PINs, visit [http://www.tahc.texas.gov/adt/ADT\\_instructions.pdf](http://www.tahc.texas.gov/adt/ADT_instructions.pdf).

**9. Am I required to obtain a PIN or LID if I do not intend to move exotic CWD susceptible species?**

No, you are not required to obtain a PIN or LID if you do not intend to move exotic CWD susceptible species, but it is encouraged.

**10. How do I complete an estimated annual inventory?**

You must fill out an estimated annual inventory form. You may obtain one on the TAHC website at [http://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal\\_health/elk-deer/13-06\\_ExoticCWDSusceptibleSpeciesInventory.pdf](http://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal_health/elk-deer/13-06_ExoticCWDSusceptibleSpeciesInventory.pdf)

**11. Am I required to submit an annual estimated inventory if I do not intend to move exotic CWD susceptible species?**

No, you are not required to submit an annual estimated inventory if you do not intend to move exotic CWD susceptible species. However, we do suggest as a good management practice to know the exotic population on your premises.

**12. What information must be included in a mortality record?**

It must contain all the required information outlined in the rule, which includes:

- the date the exotic CWD susceptible species died or was harvested;
- the species, age, and sex;
- any RFID or NUES tag number affixed to the animal;
- and any other ID number, official or unofficial, on the animal.

You may obtain a mortality record form on the TAHC website at

[http://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal\\_health/elk-deer/17-10\\_ExoticCWDSusceptibleSpeciesMortalityRecord.pdf](http://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal_health/elk-deer/17-10_ExoticCWDSusceptibleSpeciesMortalityRecord.pdf) or you may use your own form but it must include everything required in the rule.



**13. When must the estimated annual inventory and mortality records be submitted?**

The estimated annual inventory and mortality records must be submitted on or before April 1 of every year to the TAHC Central Office by either writing to TAHC, CWD Susceptible Species Reporting, PO Box 12966, Austin, Texas 78711-2966; by faxing to (512) 719-0729; or by email to [CWD\\_reports@tahc.texas.gov](mailto:CWD_reports@tahc.texas.gov).

**14. How do I complete a movement record for all exotic CWD susceptible species?**

You must fill out a movement record form. You may obtain one on the TAHC website at [http://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal\\_health/elk-deer/13-05\\_ExoticCWDSusceptibleSpeciesMovementRecord.pdf](http://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal_health/elk-deer/13-05_ExoticCWDSusceptibleSpeciesMovementRecord.pdf).

**15. Does the completed movement record form need to be kept with the live exotic CWD susceptible species being moved?**

Yes, if you are the person moving the live exotic CWD susceptible species you must have the documentation with the exotic CWD susceptible species being moved in your possession to show compliance with the requirements. A copy of this documentation must also be provided to any market selling these species.

**16. When are movement records due to the TAHC?**

Movement records are due to the TAHC within 48 hours of movement by either writing to TAHC, CWD Susceptible Species Reporting, PO Box 12966, Austin, Texas 78711-2966; by faxing to (512) 719-0729; or by email to [CWD\\_reports@tahc.texas.gov](mailto:CWD_reports@tahc.texas.gov).

**17. Must I keep a copy of my estimated annual inventory, mortality records, and movement records?**

Yes, estimated annual inventory and mortality records must be retained for one year from the date of submission. Movement records must be retained for no less than five years from the date of submission.

## Surveillance Requirements

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**18. To whom do the TAHC surveillance requirements apply?**

They apply to any high fenced, low fenced, or no fenced premises where exotic CWD susceptible species are located and is not dependent on movement.

**19. What are the TAHC surveillance requirements?**

Each calendar year, the owner of a premises must have all eligible mortalities CWD tested until such time that three animals are tested and valid test results are obtained.

**20. What are eligible mortalities?**

An eligible mortality is a death from any cause of an exotic CWD susceptible species that is 16 months of age or older. This includes hunter harvested mortalities or herd culling, natural mortalities, or animals moved directly to slaughter.



**21. Who can collect official postmortem CWD samples?**

CWD test samples must be collected by a state or federal animal health official, USDA accredited (Category II) veterinarian, or a TAHC Certified CWD Postmortem Sample Collector. For a list of TAHC Certified CWD Postmortem Sample Collectors, visit [http://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal\\_health/elk-deer/authorized/TAHC\\_CertifiedCWDsampleCollectorContactList.pdf](http://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal_health/elk-deer/authorized/TAHC_CertifiedCWDsampleCollectorContactList.pdf).

**22. Which official postmortem test do I use for exotic CWD?**

The official postmortem test for exotic CWD susceptible species is the Immuno-histochemistry (IHC) test.

**23. How do I report test results?**

An owner must report all test results accompanied with a test record form to the TAHC within 30 days of receiving the test results by either writing to Texas Animal Health Commission, CWD Susceptible Species Reporting, P.O. Box 12966, Austin, Texas 78711-2966; or by fax to (512) 719-0729; or by email to [CWD\\_reports@tahc.texas.gov](mailto:CWD_reports@tahc.texas.gov). You can obtain a test record form on the TAHC website at [http://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal\\_health/elk-deer/#cwfoms](http://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal_health/elk-deer/#cwfoms).

## Mortality Record Keeping

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**24. To whom do the TAHC mortality record keeping rules apply?**

They apply to all owners of any high fenced, low fenced, or no fenced premises where exotic CWD susceptible species are located and eligible mortality occurs.

**25. What are the TAHC mortality record keeping requirements?**

The adopted rule states that owners of exotic CWD susceptible species maintain an exotic CWD susceptible species mortality record when an eligible mortality occurs.

**26. What information must be included in a mortality record?**

It must contain all the required information outlined in the rule, which includes:

- the date the exotic CWD susceptible species died or was harvested;
- the species, age, and sex;
- any RFID or NUES tag number affixed to the animal;
- and any other ID number, official or unofficial, on the animal.

You may obtain a mortality record form on the TAHC website at

[http://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal\\_health/elk-deer/17-10\\_ExoticCWDSusceptibleSpeciesMortalityRecord.pdf](http://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal_health/elk-deer/17-10_ExoticCWDSusceptibleSpeciesMortalityRecord.pdf) or you may use your own form as long as it includes everything required in the rule.

**27. When are mortality records due to the TAHC?**

Mortality records must be submitted on or before April 1 of each year. Submit records to the TAHC Central Office, either by writing to TAHC CWD Susceptible Species Reporting, PO Box 12966, Austin, Texas 78711-2966; by faxing to (512) 719-0729; or by email to [CWD\\_reports@tahc.texas.gov](mailto:CWD_reports@tahc.texas.gov).

**28. How long do I need to keep a copy of my mortality records?**

Mortality records must be retained for one year from the date of submission.



**29. Can mortality records be requested by a state official any time during the year?**

Yes, if a TAHC employee requests the mortality record for your premises acting in the performance of official duties, it must be provided.

## Dealer Requirements

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**30. To whom do the TAHC dealer requirements apply?**

They apply to any person engaged in the business of buying or selling exotic CWD susceptible species in commerce on the person’s own account, as an employee or agent of a vendor, purchaser, or both, or on a commission basis.

**31. What are the TAHC dealer requirements?**

The dealer requirements state that any person engaged in the business of buying or selling exotic CWD susceptible species in commerce must maintain records for all exotics transported within the state or where there is a transfer of ownership.

**32. What records must a dealer maintain for exotic CWD susceptible species they are buying, selling, or moving?**

A dealer must maintain movement records for all exotic CWD susceptible species transported within the state or where there is a transfer of ownership, and the dealer must provide the records to the TAHC upon request. TAHC provides a movement record form, at [http://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal\\_health/elk-deer/13-05\\_ExoticCWDSusceptibleSpeciesMovementRecord.pdf](http://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal_health/elk-deer/13-05_ExoticCWDSusceptibleSpeciesMovementRecord.pdf). Alternatively, you may use your own form but it must contain all the required information outlined in the rule which includes:

- Owner’s name;
- location where the animal was sold or purchased;
- official ID and/or ranch tag;
- gender and age of animal;
- source of animal (if purchased addition);
- movement to other premises; and disposition of the animal.

**33. How long do I need to keep a copy of my movement records?**

Records must be maintained no less than five years from the date of movement.

Information provided by the  
Texas Animal Health Commission  
P.O. Box 12966 – Austin, Texas 78711-2966  
[www.tahc.texas.gov](http://www.tahc.texas.gov)  
800-550-8242

