

CWD Sample Submission Guidelines

(January 2, 2015) Cervid owners may comply with the state requirement to collect samples from dead cervids for chronic wasting disease (CWD) testing by shipping or delivering the head or carcass to Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (ADDL) in West Lafayette or Heeke ADDL (SIPAC) laboratory in Dubois County.

Cervid owners may deliver directly to the diagnostic laboratory (ADDL or SIPAC). Direct deliveries to the laboratory must be during business hours.

Cervid heads may be shipped to the diagnostic labs **Monday through Thursday** using a shipping service. **UPS ground** is acceptable for shipment in Indiana for next day delivery.

Cervid heads **should** be submitted fresh within 1 to 2 days of the animal's death for chronic wasting disease (CWD) sampling. Freezing heads is **only** allowed for emergency circumstances when the head cannot be shipped in a timely manner.

Freezing decreases the quality of the sample, and increases the time before samples are submitted. The CWD disease surveillance program requires samples be submitted in a timely manner so disease can be detected early. Early disease detection results in early eradication and recovery.

Submission Form: All cervids heads dropped off or shipped must be accompanied by:

- 1. A CWD Sample Submission Form that has been filled out completely.** (Submission forms may be obtained from the Indiana Board of Animal Health.)
- 2. Payment of \$62 per head or \$37 per formalin jar.** Checks made out to Purdue University.

Head Removal: The head should be removed from the animal at the first joint behind the skull or further down the neck. **Leave all identification (ALL TAGS) on the head.** A head must have official identification for the sample to meet sampling requirements. If the cervid has lost its official id, please re-tag and cross reference the new tag in the records.

Shipping Facilities: As of the date on this document, Fed Ex or UPS will ship cervid heads. Individual stores may refuse to ship a cervid head. The US Postal Service will not ship deer heads. Each cervid owner is responsible for meeting the requirements for the carrier they choose. The requirements for each carrier may change from time to time and will supersede the guidelines in this document.

Packaging: The following guidance applies to cervid heads that are being shipped for sampling:

1. Cervid heads may be sent fresh or frozen (if necessary), but fresh is preferred. If the head is fresh or the weather warm, chill the head before shipping.

2. The head must be double-bagged or vacuum packed to prevent leaking. If the package leaks during shipping, it will be the responsibility of the person shipping the head to deal with the consequences. A shipper can decide they will not ship certain specimens. **Poor packaging could result in a loss of shippers willing to ship deer heads for all producers. Again, it is the responsibility of the producer to make sure the package does not leak!**

3. The heads should be placed in a shipping bucket or an insulated box with 4-6 frozen cold packs.

4. Two to four inches of absorptive material (newspaper, cotton...etc) should be placed around the bagged head to absorb any leaks.

5. Be sure to include the submission form in a separate plastic baggie to keep it clean and dry.

If the condition of heads from certain producers is consistently poor, the labs may decide to restrict shipments from that producer. It will then be the responsibility of the producer to take the head to their private practitioner for sampling.

Shipping Destination

Cervid heads may be shipped or delivered to:

ADDL
Purdue University
406 S University St.
West Lafayette, IN 47907
(765) 494-7440

or

HEEKE ADDL
11367 E Purdue Farm Rd
Dubois, IN 47527
(812) 678-3401

Questions?

For additional information or to request forms, contact a BOAH field veterinarian or Paula Livers at (317)-544-2395 or toll free at 877-747-3038.