

## Vermont Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Testing

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CWD is a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) of captive and wild cervid animals in the United States and Canada. State and federal regulations currently require CWD testing of all cervid mortalities that are 12 months or older, except for fallow deer. This document outlines the policy of the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFAM) pertaining to CWD testing of captive cervids at slaughter in Vermont.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) considers cervid animals that test positive for CWD at post-mortem to be adulterated and not fit for human food under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA). Therefore, when a cervid animal is tested for CWD and slaughtered under voluntary inspection services, VAAFAM cannot determine the wholesomeness of the carcass and parts without the CWD test results.

IPP are to retain, and not to apply or allow the establishment to apply the mark of inspection to carcasses of cervid animals, or parts thereof, until after “not detected” test results are received. IPP are to allow establishments to hold or further process (e.g., bone) these carcasses under inspection pending test results provided that the affected carcass or parts remain retained. IPP are to observe how the establishment addresses cross contamination during further processing of these products and ensure the carcass and parts are handled in a sanitary manner.

See Vermont’s CWD Testing Program for details on sampling