

# PREVENT THE SPREAD OF CWD PROPER CARCASS DISPOSAL



## Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

As of May 2019, Oklahoma has NOT detected CWD in the 10,000 wild deer/elk tested since 1999. Texas, Arkansas and Missouri have detected CWD in multiple deer over the same time period. Due to the close proximity of deer that have tested positively for CWD, the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation is recommending certain deer carcass handling practices to minimize the potential spread of CWD.

## PROPER CARCASS DISPOSAL

The carcass of an infected deer can expose other deer to the disease, directly or indirectly. Long after an infected carcass decomposes, the soil will remain infectious for years, possibly exposing other deer to the prions that cause CWD. To avoid this exposure risk, proper disposal methods are recommended.

## PROPER DISPOSAL

- **Burial on site:** Whenever possible, deer carcasses should be buried on the property where it was harvested. Burial should be deep enough to prevent exposure to the surrounding environment by scavengers.
- **Approved, lined landfills:** Infectious prions are highly unlikely to migrate out of an approved sanitary landfill and infect other deer. Deer remains can be disposed of in household garbage that is hauled to a landfill via regular trash collection.
- **Leave in place:** If burial is not possible where the deer was harvested, the remains may be left on site. If CWD is already present on the property, it is unlikely to be spread by scavengers to another property where the disease is not found.

## IMPROPER DISPOSAL

- **Disposal in water:** Do not dispose of carcasses in ponds, lakes or waterways. This has the potential to spread infectious prions to areas previously uninfected.
- **Burning:** Only closed commercial incinerators are capable of generating enough heat to destroy the prions as well as being the only lawful type of incineration. Leaving the carcass in place is equally effective while not presenting a fire danger or air quality issue.
- **Transport to another property:** Remains of harvested deer that are transported to a different property for processing should not be dumped on the landscape where it could infect the environment. Instead, the remains should be sent to a landfill. Burial on a different property is acceptable if the remains are buried deep enough so as not to become exposed to the surrounding environment by scavengers, thus making the prion accessible to deer in the area.