

# DIFFERENCES IN DEER DISEASES



## **EHD** Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (Bluetongue)

## Chronic Wasting Disease **CWD**

**Virus** that spread by biting gnats in late summer. Symptoms include fever and internal hemorrhaging.

### OVERVIEW

**Disease** of the central nervous system in which the brain deteriorates.

**Doesn't spread deer to deer**, only through bites from infected insects.

### TRANSMISSION

**Does spread deer to deer** through direct contact, bodily fluids, body parts of infected deer or infectious materials in soil.

Bucks and does of **all ages are equally** susceptible to being bitten by infected insects.

### OCCURRENCE

**Higher infection rates among mature bucks**, likely because they cover more ground and frequently contact toher deer.

Viruses are **found across North America**, with outbreaks typically occurring in late summer, during droughts and extreme heat.

### LOCATION

**Present in 35 states** (as of 2024). Preventing spread of CWD is critical, as transporting infected deer can spread disease long distances.

**Some deer survive** infection. Herd immunity is higher in areas with longer historical exposure.

### MORTALITY RATE

**Always fatal!** Infected deer become more vulnerable to predators, cars, and other illnesses, but those that live long enough die from CWD's effects.

For deer that die of the virus, death **usually occurs within a few days**.

### SPEED OF DEATH

Incubates in infected deer for **1-2 years before symptoms appear**, during which deer can spread CWD to other deer.

Viruses **cannot survive outside the body** of the insect vectors or the deer hosts.

### DURABILITY

Infectious prions are shed in feces, urine, saliva, blood, and from carcasses of infected animals and **remain viable in the environment for years**.

**Cannot infect people**, either through insect bites or through handling or consuming infected deer.

### HUMAN HEALTH

**No evidence that CWD is a health issue** in humans, but the CDC advises hunters in CWD zones to test harvested deer and wait for result before eating the venison.

**Outbreaks vary locally** from mild to serious, but deer populations rebound.

### LONG-TERM

Except where active management keeps infection rates low, CWD **threatens to cause significant declines** in deer populations.