



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## Exotic CWD Susceptible Species

Updated as of July 2023

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

Exotic CWD susceptible species include all species in the Cervidae family that have had a CWD diagnosis confirmed by an official test conducted by an approved laboratory. This includes black-tailed deer, North American elk or wapiti, red deer, Sika deer, moose, reindeer and caribou and any associated subspecies and hybrids. Axis and fallow deer are not classified as an exotic CWD 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 TAHC 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).

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## OWNERS OF CAPTIVE EXOTIC CWD SUSCEPTIBLE SPECIES

The following questions and answers only apply to owners of captive exotic CWD susceptible species located within a high fence.

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### MOVEMENT REQUIREMENTS

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#### 4. To whom do the TAHC movement record requirements apply?

TAHC exotic CWD susceptible species movement requirements apply to owners of captive exotics upon the movement or sale of the animals. Movement includes but is not limited to private treaty sale, public auction, slaughter, or movement of an animal between separate premises under the same ownership.

#### 5. What are the TAHC movement requirements?

- In order to move exotic CWD susceptible species to or from a premises, the owner must first obtain a Premise Identification Number (PIN).
- All exotic CWD susceptible species moved or transported within the state must have an official identification device.
- 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.
- A complete movement record must be kept for all exotic CWD susceptible species that are moved onto or from a premises. The movement record must be submitted to the TAHC.

### IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

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#### 6. What are the exotic CWD susceptible species identification requirements?

TAHC exotic CWD susceptible species identification requirements are directly linked to the movement requirements:

- In order to move exotic CWD susceptible species to or from a premises, the owner must first obtain a Premise Identification Number (PIN), and
- All exotic CWD susceptible species moved or transported within the state must have an official identification device.



## 7. What is an official identification device?

Official identification devices for exotic CWD susceptible species include ear tags that conform to the USDA alphanumeric national uniform ear tagging system (NUES), visible and legible animal identification numbers (AIN) or other identification methods approved by the TAHC, such as 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 [https://www.tahc.texas.gov/adt/pdf/ADT\\_instructions.pdf](https://www.tahc.texas.gov/adt/pdf/ADT_instructions.pdf).

## 9. Am I required to apply official identification to my exotic cervids if I do not intend to move exotic CWD susceptible species?

No, you are not required to obtain and apply official identification if you do not intend to move exotic CWD susceptible species, but it is encouraged.

## RECORD REQUIREMENTS

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### 10. What are the TAHC's exotic CWD susceptible species record requirements?

An owner of a premises where exotic CWD susceptible species are located within a high fence must:

- keep an estimated annual inventory if they plan to move exotic CWD susceptible species onto or off of their premises;
- keep mortality records for all exotic CWD susceptible species; and
- keep movement records for all exotic CWD susceptible species that are moved onto or off of their premises.

## RECORD REQUIREMENTS - ANNUAL INVENTORY

### 11. How do I complete an estimated annual inventory?

You can find the estimated annual inventory form (TAHC Form 13-06) on the TAHC website, [https://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal\\_health/elk-deer/#cwdexotic](https://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal_health/elk-deer/#cwdexotic). For inquiries and assistance please contact your TAHC region office.

### 12. When must the estimated annual inventory be submitted?

The estimated annual inventory must be submitted on or before April 1 of every year. Submissions should be sent to the TAHC Central Office 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).

### 13. Must I keep a copy of my estimated annual inventory records?

Yes. Estimated annual inventory records must be retained for one year from the date of submission.

### 14. 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, it is suggested as a good management practice to maintain record of known exotic population on your premises.

## RECORD REQUIREMENTS - MOVEMENT RECORD

### 15. How do I complete a movement record for all exotic CWD susceptible species?

You must fill out a movement record form (TAHC Form 13-05). You may obtain one on the TAHC website, [https://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal\\_health/elk-deer/#cwdexotic](https://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal_health/elk-deer/#cwdexotic).



## 16. Does the completed movement record form need to be kept with the exotic CWD susceptible species being moved?

Yes. If you are the individual moving the animal(s), you must have the documentation with the exotic CWD susceptible species to show compliance with the requirements. A copy of this documentation must also be provided to any market selling these species.

## 17. 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; faxing to (512) 719-0729; or by email to [CWD\\_reports@tahc.texas.gov](mailto:CWD_reports@tahc.texas.gov).

## 18. Must I keep a copy of my movement records?

Yes. Movement records must be retained for a minimum of five years from the date of submission.

## 19. Am I required to submit a movement record if I do not intend to move exotic CWD susceptible species?

No. You are not required to submit a movement record if you do not intend to move exotic CWD susceptible species.

## RECORD REQUIREMENTS - MORTALITY RECORD

### 20. What information must be included in a mortality record?

A mortality record must contain all the required information outlined in the rule. This 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 official or unofficial ID number on the animal.

You may obtain a mortality record form ([TAHC Form 17-10](#)) on the TAHC website at [https://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal\\_health/elk-deer/#cwdxotic](https://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal_health/elk-deer/#cwdxotic) or you may use your own form that includes everything required in the rule.

### 21. When are mortality records due to the TAHC?

Mortality records must be submitted on or before April 1 of every year. Submissions should be sent to the TAHC Central Office 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).

### 22. 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.

### 23. Must I keep a copy of my mortality records?

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

### 24. Am I required to submit mortality records if I do not intend to move exotic CWD susceptible species?

Yes. The mortality record is not subject to movement requirements. All exotic CWD susceptible species mortalities are required to be reported.



## SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENTS

### 25. To whom do the TAHC surveillance requirements apply?

TAHC surveillance requirements apply to the owner of a premises at which exotic CWD susceptible species are located. 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.

### 26. Must exotic CWD susceptible species be tested for CWD before movement?

No. Exotic CWD susceptible species herds are not required to be tested for CWD prior to movement or sale.

### 27. Must exotic CWD susceptible species be postmortem tested?

Yes. All eligible mortalities are to be tested for CWD within seven days using an official CWD test, in accordance with the requirements in §40.5.

### 28. What are eligible mortalities?

An eligible mortality is a death from any cause of an exotic CWD susceptible species that is 12 months of age or older. This includes hunter harvested mortalities or herd culling, natural mortalities, or animals moved directly to slaughter.

### 29. Who can collect official postmortem CWD samples?

CWD test samples must be collected by a state or federal animal health official, USDA Accredited and TAHC Authorized veterinarian, or a TAHC Certified CWD Postmortem Sample Collector. For a list of TAHC Certified CWD Postmortem Sample Collectors, visit [https://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal\\_health/elk-deer/PDF/TAHC\\_CertifiedCWDSampleCollectorContactList.pdf](https://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal_health/elk-deer/PDF/TAHC_CertifiedCWDSampleCollectorContactList.pdf).

### 30. Which official postmortem test do I use for captive exotic CWD susceptible species?

- Elk: The official tests are the Immunohistochemistry (IHC) test and the enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) test. However, if your elk herd is enrolled in the TAHC CWD Herd Certification Program you must use the IHC test.
- All other exotic CWD susceptible species: The official test is the Immunohistochemistry (IHC) test.

### 31. How do I report test results?

An owner must report all test results accompanied with a test record form to the TAHC within 14 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 ([TAHC Form 17-11](#)) on the TAHC website at [https://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal\\_health/elk-deer/#cwdexotic](https://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal_health/elk-deer/#cwdexotic).

## DEALER REQUIREMENTS

The following questions and answers apply to anyone engaged in the business of buying or selling exotic CWD susceptible species in commerce.

### 32. To whom do the TAHC dealer requirements apply?

TAHC dealer requirements 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.

### 33. 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.

### **34. 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. The TAHC provides a movement record form ([TAHC Form 13-05](#)) on the TAHC website at [https://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal\\_health/elk-deer/#cwndexotic](https://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal_health/elk-deer/#cwndexotic).

### **35. 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.

## **LANDOWNERS WHERE EXOTIC CWD SUSCEPTIBLE SPECIES ARE FREE RANGING**

The following questions and answers apply to all Texas landowners.

### **MOVEMENT REQUIREMENTS**

#### **36. To whom do the TAHC movement requirements apply?**

TAHC exotic CWD movement requirements do not apply to owners of land where exotic CWD susceptible species are free ranging. Movement requirements only apply to owners of captive exotic CWD susceptible species upon movement or sale of those animals.

### **IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

#### **37. To whom do the TAHC identification requirements apply?**

TAHC exotic CWD susceptible species identification requirements do not apply to owners of land where free ranging exotic CWD susceptible species are present. The identification requirements apply only to owners of captive exotic CWD susceptible species who move or transport susceptible species within the state.

### **RECORD REQUIREMENTS**

#### **38. What are TAHC's record requirements for landowners who do not own exotic CWD susceptible species?**

An owner of a premises where exotic CWD susceptible species are free ranging must keep a mortality record for all exotic CWD susceptible species that are harvested or die on their premises.

### **RECORD REQUIREMENTS - MORTALITY RECORD**

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

A mortality record must contain all the required information outlined in the rule. This 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 official or unofficial ID number on the animal.

You may obtain a mortality record form ([TAHC Form 17-10](#)) on the TAHC website at [https://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal\\_health/elk-deer/#cwndexotic](https://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal_health/elk-deer/#cwndexotic) or you may use your own form but it must include everything required in the rule.





**40. When must mortality records be submitted?**

Mortality records must be submitted on or before April 1 of every year. Submissions should be sent to the TAHC Central Office 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).

**41. 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.

**42. 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.

**SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENTS****43. To whom do the TAHC surveillance requirements apply?**

TAHC surveillance requirements apply to the owner of a premises at which exotic CWD susceptible species are located. 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.

**44. Must exotic CWD susceptible species be tested for CWD before movement?**

No. Exotic CWD susceptible species herds are not required to be tested for CWD prior to movement or sale.

**45. Must exotic CWD susceptible species be postmortem tested?**

Yes. All eligible mortalities are to be tested for CWD within seven days using an official CWD test, in accordance with the requirements in §40.5.

**46. What are eligible mortalities?**

An eligible mortality is a death from any cause of an exotic CWD susceptible species that is 12 months of age or older. This includes hunter harvested mortalities or herd culling, natural mortalities, or animals moved directly to slaughter.

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

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

**48. Which official postmortem test do I use for free ranging exotic CWD susceptible species?**

- Elk: The official tests are Immunohistochemistry (IHC) test and the enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) test.
- All other exotic CWD susceptible species: The official test is the Immunohistochemistry (IHC) test.

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

An owner must report all test results accompanied with a test record form to the TAHC within 14 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 [https://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal\\_health/elk-deer/#cwd](https://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal_health/elk-deer/#cwd).

