

CHAPTER 104  
CERVID IMPORTATION, TRANSPORTATION AND DISEASE MONITORING

Chapter rescission date pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.7: 1/1/28

**571—104.1(481A) Definitions.**

*“Accredited veterinarian”* means a Category II-accredited veterinarian as authorized by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the state veterinarian in accordance with Part 161 of Title 9, Chapter 1, of the Code of Federal Regulations to perform functions required by cooperative state/federal animal disease control and eradication programs.

*“Affected herd”* means a cervid herd from which any animal has been diagnosed chronic wasting disease (CWD) positive.

*“Approved laboratory”* means an American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) accredited laboratory or the National Veterinary Services Laboratories, Ames, Iowa.

*“Captive cervid”* means all cervidae that are legally acquired and held on licensed hunting preserves.

*“Cervidae”* or *“cervids”* means any member of the Cervidae family, whether free ranging or captive, except those classified as farm deer by Iowa Code section 481A.1(20) “*h.*” Only fallow deer (*Dama dama*), sika deer (*Cervus nippon*), red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) and captive elk (*Cervus canadensis*) are not included. “Farm deer” does not include any unmarked free ranging elk, moose or mule deer.

*“Cervid herd”* means a group of Cervidae or one or more groups of Cervidae maintained on common ground or under common ownership or supervision that are geographically separated but can have interchange or movement.

*“CWD”* means chronic wasting disease, an infectious and contagious prion disease of cervids.

*“CWD affected”* means a designation applied to Cervidae diagnosed as affected with CWD based on laboratory results, with or without clinical signs, or ties to an epidemiological investigation.

*“CWD exposed”* or *“exposed”* means a designation applied to Cervidae that are either part of an affected herd or for which epidemiological investigation indicates contact with CWD affected animals or contact with animals from a CWD affected herd in the past five years.

*“Department”* means the department of natural resources or its designee.

*“Designated epidemiologist”* means a person who has demonstrated the knowledge and ability to perform the functions required under these rules and who has been selected by the department.

*“Endemic area”* means a state or province where CWD has been confirmed in wild cervids.

*“Eradication plan”* means a written herd management and testing plan that is designed by the herd owner, the owner’s veterinarian, if requested, and a designated epidemiologist to identify and eradicate CWD from an affected herd.

*“Group”* means one or more Cervidae.

*“Herd of origin”* means a cervid herd or any farm or other premises where the animals were born or where they currently reside.

*“Quarantine”* means an imposed restriction prohibiting movement of cervids to any location without specific written permits.

*“State”* means any state of the United States; the District of Columbia; Puerto Rico; the U.S. Virgin Islands; or Guam.

*“Tissue sample”* refers to the medial retropharyngeal lymph node, which is the preferred tissue type for chronic wasting disease testing in white-tailed deer and mule deer, or the lymph node and obex (caudal brainstem) in other cervid species. When damaged or degraded, the obex can be substituted in deer though individuals in early disease can be missed.

*“Trace back”* means the process of identifying the herd of origin of CWD positive animals identified on licensed hunting preserves.

*“Trace out”* means the process of identifying herds that received CWD exposed animals, including licensed hunting preserves.

**571—104.2(481A) Chronic wasting disease in captive cervids.**

**104.2(1) Testing required.** A person who keeps captive cervids in this state shall have chronic wasting disease tests performed on any captive cervid that dies or is killed on the premises. The individual must be reported immediately to the department and the head retained in sufficient condition so that an accredited veterinarian or trained employee of the department can collect the tissue for testing at an approved laboratory.

**104.2(2) Moving live farm deer to licensed hunting preserves** Transfer of live cervids to licensed hunting preserves must comply with department of agriculture import and movement requirements as per 21—65.9(163).

**104.2(3) Collecting tissue samples.** One of the following persons shall collect a tissue sample and submit it for testing:

- a. An accredited veterinarian.
- b. A trained employee of the department.

**104.2(4) Reporting disease findings.** Accredited veterinarians unaffiliated with the department shall immediately report chronic wasting disease or other disease testing results to the department. The person shall provide a copy of the test result to the owner of the tested cervid.

**571—104.3(481A) Identification of animals.** Cervids purchased or otherwise acquired must have official individual identification permitting the lawful interstate or intrastate movement of individuals into the licensed hunting preserve as prescribed in 21—64.104(163).

**571—104.4(481A) Herd Inventory.** All individuals purchased or otherwise acquired and harvested or otherwise removed must be reported annually for renewal of the hunting preserve license. The department will conduct an annual site visit and visual inventory of Cervidae observed.

**571—104.5(481A) Surveillance procedures.**

All cervid herds must be under continuous surveillance for CWD as defined in the CCWDSI program.

**571—104.6(481A) Official cervid CWD tests.** The following are recognized as official cervid tests for CWD:

1. Immunohistochemistry.
2. Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay.
3. Any other tests performed by an approved laboratory to confirm a diagnosis of CWD.

**571—104.7(481A) Investigation of CWD affected animals identified through surveillance.** Trace back must be performed for all animals originating from licensed hunting preserves that are diagnosed at an approved laboratory as CWD positive. All herds of origin and all adjacent herds having contact with affected animals must be investigated epidemiologically by the department of agriculture with cooperation by the department. Licensed hunting preserves identified as having received animals from affected hers shall be initially quarantined pending results of trace out performed by the department of agriculture.

**571—104.8(481A) Duration of quarantine.** Quarantines placed in accordance with these rules shall be removed as follows:

1. For herds that received exposed animals, quarantines shall be removed after five years of compliance with rules 571—104.2(481A) through 571—104.22(481A) and no positive detections.
2. For herds where the trace out concludes an indeterminate risk, quarantines shall be removed as directed by the department in consultation with a designated epidemiologist.

**571—104.9(481A) Herd plan.** The licensed hunting preserve owner, the owner's veterinarian, if requested, and a designated epidemiologist shall develop a plan for eradicating CWD in affected herds. The plan must be designed to reduce and then eliminate CWD from the herd and prevent spillover into wild cervids. The herd plan must be developed and signed within 60 days after the determination that the herd is affected. The plan must address herd management and adhere to rules 571—104.2(481A) through 571—104.22(481A). The plan must be formalized as a memorandum of agreement between the owner and program officials within the department.

**571—104.10(481A) Identification and disposal requirements.** When practical, affected and exposed animals should remain on the premises where they are found until they are identified and disposed of in accordance with this rule.

**104.10(1)** The carcasses of affected or exposed animals may be disposed of at a permitted sanitary landfill, incinerated in a department-approved incinerator, or buried on the premises. Appropriate disposal method(s) will be determined by the department. If burial is the approved method, it must be done in accordance with all of the following:

- a. A maximum loading rate of 20 Cervidae per acre per year may be buried on the premises. Animals or parts thereof that are less than 40 pounds may be buried without regard to number.
- b. The animals are buried in soils listed in tables contained in the county soil surveys and soil interpretation records (published by the Natural Resources Conservation Service) as being moderately well drained, well drained, somewhat excessively well drained, or excessively drained.
- c. The lowest elevation of the burial pit is 6 feet below the surface.
- d. The animals are immediately covered with a minimum of 6 inches of soil and finally covered with a total minimum of 30 inches of soil.

**104.10(2)** In addition to the disposal methods listed in 104.11(1), the Cervidae carcasses, or portions thereof, which come into the possession of the department for the purpose of disease testing or for any other reason may be disposed of by burial on public property under the jurisdiction of the department provided that burial is done in accordance with 104.11(1) “a” through “d” and the location of burial is situated to minimize the impact on public use of the property.

**571—104.11(481A) Cleaning and disinfecting.** Any machinery or equipment used for carcass disposal must be cleaned and disinfected under department supervision within 15 days after affected animals have been removed.

**571—104.12(481A) Movement restrictions.**

**104.19** Cervids purchased by licensed hunting preserves or those born in preserves can only be removed through onsite harvest or natural death. Individuals cannot be sent to other preserves within the state or other states or sent for slaughter at a state- or federally-inspected establishment.

**571—104.13(481A) Prohibited movement of cervid carcasses.** The importation into Iowa of cervid carcasses from a CWD endemic area is prohibited, except for the meat from which all bones have been removed, the cape (skin), and antlers. Antlers may be attached to a clean skull plate from which all brain tissue has been removed.

**571—104.14(481A) Inspection.** The department may inspect any shipment of cervids and accompanying certificate of veterinary inspection or shipment documentation. The department may quarantine or destroy any cervids that are found to be infected with CWD or other transmissible diseases.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 481A.47, 481A.62 and 484B.12.