



## **TWA Position Statement on Recent Detection of Chronic Wasting Disease**

*Adopted August 2021 by TWA Big Game Committee.*

*Approved by TWA Executive Committee, August 11, 2021.*

The Texas Wildlife Association (TWA) is deeply concerned about the recent detection of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in six (6) permitted deer breeding facilities. CWD represents an existential threat to rural economies, hunting-related businesses (including deer breeders), and an important natural resource. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) are currently working on permanent rules to monitor and manage this disease.

TWA is concerned about CWD and how its spread might impact landowners, hunters, business owners, and outdoor enthusiasts. TWA supports TPWD and the TAHC in adopting strong science-based rules to stop the spread of CWD. The greatest risk of spreading CWD comes from moving or releasing live animals, thus TWA supports the requirement that ante-mortem testing (live test) of all breeder deer before their release must become a permanent rule. TWA also supports the position that a permanent ID (tag) be clearly visible from a distance and should be required for all released deer.