Guidance for Wildlife Rehabilitators: Chronic Wasting Disease and Fawns

TAKE A STAND AGAINST CWD
GEORGIAWILDLIFE.COM/CWD

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) was detected in Georgia in 2025. The CWD Management Area includes Atkinson, Berrien, Lanier, Lowndes, Coffee and Cook counties (as of November 2026). The following measures are required to allow continued fawn rehabilitation statewide.

Fawn Intake and Release Requirements

Fawns must be returned to their property of origin.

- If return to the exact location is not possible, release as close as safely possible.
- Fawns must be released within their county of origin.
- Landowner permission is required.
- Contact: CWD@dnr.ga.gov for assistance identifying an appropriate release site if the property of origin is not appropriate.

Do not accept or retain fawns after they have lost their spots.

- Older fawns (>3 months of age) are more likely to spread CWD if infected.
- Retaining these animals increases the risk of transmission within facilities, to other fawns, and spreading CWD to new areas upon release.

CWD Information for Rehabilitators

Why is it critical to return fawns to the property of origin?

Moving live deer is the highest risk for spreading CWD to new areas. Returning fawns to their original property reduces this risk.

- Infected deer don't typically start spreading CWD until approximately 3 months after exposure.
- Pre-weaned fawns are less likely to transmit CWD, but risk increases with age.
- Deer infected with CWD may appear healthy for over a year before showing symptoms.

Disinfection guidance after release

Disinfect all equipment and surfaces any deer have come into contact with (e.g., bottles, feeding supplies):

1. Wash the material with soap and water
2. Soak for 5 minutes in a 40% bleach solution (mix 2 parts household bleach with 3 parts water)

For more information about CWD, please visit GeorgiaWildlife.com/CWD or scan the QR code below.

WORKING TOGETHER, WE CAN MANAGE CWD IN GEORGIA.

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION

If you have questions or concerns, please contact us at CWD@dnr.ga.gov.