



***What is Chronic Wasting Disease and how did it show up at the Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park & Zoo (SFFP&Z)?***

Chronic Wasting Disease is a fatal nervous system disease found in the cervid family of animals (white-tailed deer, mule deer, moose, and elk). The suspected case was brought to the attention of SFFP&Z by Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). A case of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) had been found at the farm where the male white tail deer at the SFFP&Z had recently come from.

***Are nearby residents and/or visitors to the zoo at risk from the disease?***

No. CWD is not known to be transferrable to any other mammals outside of the deer family. Visitors to the Zoo and residents are safe from infection.

***Is the Zoo closed?***

No. The Zoo remains open to the public.

***Why was the suspected animal euthanized?***

There is no test available to identify CWD in a live animal. Brain tissue must be examined to accurately test for CWD. There is no vaccine and there is no cure once the animal is infected. CFIA's risk assessment, under the authority of the Health of Animals Act which mandates the best way to manage the risk of the disease spreading, decided the best course of action was to also euthanize six other deer-family animals that had close contact with the confirmed CWD animal. These six animals all tested negative for the disease.

***How is CWD spread?***

It is spread through direct (animal to animal) and indirect environmental (animal to premises to animal) transmission from animal secretions.

***What is the SFFP&Z doing to ensure the disease doesn't spread to the remaining elk and other deer housed the Zoo?***

SFFP&Z staff will clean and disinfect areas that are heated and controlled. In the spring, staff will clean and disinfect all exterior pens and buildings that housed the male white-tail deer including soil removal in the exhibit.

***What is the SFFP&Z doing to ensure wild animals in the Saskatoon area aren't affected?***

The SFFP&Z has a fourteen foot perimeter fence independent of any animal exhibit fencing around the Zoo to prevent nose-to-nose contact between zoo animals and free-ranging wildlife.