



## Frequently Asked Questions Related to the Deer Breeder Program

### **I. Permits:**

- Expire on June 30<sup>th</sup> of each year.
- Are current and valid (which means a deer breeder is considered legal to continue to operate) if renewal paperwork has been submitted by the deadline, even if TPWD has not yet issued the new permit.
- Should be kept upon receipt from TPWD. Copies of signed deer breeder permits do not need to be sent back to TPWD, but should be maintained for a deer breeder's records.

### **II. Renewal application packets:**

- Are sent out by TPWD by April 15 every year for deer breeders whose permit shows an expiration date of June 30 of the current year. If the deer breeder permit shows an expiration of June 30 of a previous year, permitting staff are still reconciling questions concerning the herd list, and a renewal application will be sent to the deer breeder once that process is complete.
- Are due back at TPWD by May 15 every year for deer breeders whose permit shows an expiration date of June 30 of the current year.
- Are not available online.
- Require a \$400.00 fee every year.
- Include a renewal application (yellow sheet) which may **only** be signed by the permitted deer breeder. Renewal applications signed by agents for deer breeders cannot be accepted.

### **III. Eligible deaths:**

- Are mortalities of breeder deer which are at least 16 months of age. These mortalities count toward a breeder's "movement qualified" status.
- Are cumulative over time. "Movement qualified" status is determined at the time a new deer breeder permit is issued.
- May be submitted to the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Lab or other accredited lab for chronic wasting disease testing in order to stay "movement qualified" or maintain status with the Texas Animal Health Commission. If a deer breeder does not have at least Level A status in the Texas Animal Health Commission's Whole Herd Health Chronic Wasting Disease Monitoring Program, the deer breeder must obtain "not detected" test results for at least 20% of all eligible deaths in their facility, and submit these to TPWD to maintain their "movement qualified" status.

**Example:** If a facility has a total of 4 eligible deaths reported, the facility will be "movement qualified" without submitting any test results. However, if a fifth eligible death is reported on a subsequent renewal and no test results are submitted, the facility will be considered "not movement qualified," and deer could not legally be moved from the facility.

### **IV. Unique numbers:**

- May be obtained by calling or emailing the TPWD Wildlife Permits Office.
- Must be assigned to all fawns. Unique numbers must be displayed on ear tags by the March 31<sup>st</sup> following the deer's birth.
- Must be tattooed in each deer's ear before the deer is moved out of the breeder pens. This requirement also applies to liberations of deer onto the property surrounding the breeder pens.

**V. Transfer permits:**

- May be printed online or obtained from TPWD Wildlife Permits Office.
- May be activated by calling the Law Enforcement Communications Office at (512) 389-4600. The 5-digit confirmation number assigned to the transfer permit by the dispatch officer is required prior to movement of the deer.
- Are valid for 48 hours from the effective date and time specified on the transfer permit (movement of all deer must be completed within this time frame).
- Must be completed and faxed to (512) 389-8080 within 48 hours of completing the movement of all deer.
- **May also be activated and completed online without faxing or calling by registering at [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/deerbreeder](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/deerbreeder).**

**VI. Releases of deer:**

- Require the registration of the release site prior to activating a transfer permit. Upon registration of a release site, a facility ID (4-digit number) is generated which is associated with the property.
- Require that a transfer permit be activated prior to the movement of deer.
- Require that all deer be tattooed prior leaving a breeding pen.
- Require that antlers must be cut between the G3 tine and the pedicel prior to release if the effective date on the transfer permit occurs during an open hunting season for deer or during the 10-day period immediately preceding an open hunting season. Contact TPWD for the last date to legally release deer with antlers.

**VII. In order to close a deer breeder facility:**

- A deer breeder must submit a signed and dated Notification of Closure form. This form may only be signed by a permitted deer breeder, not an agent.
- A deer breeder must also submit a completed final Detail Herd Information Report - including fawns on the Detail Herd Addendum sheet.
- The permittee must provide all transfer permits in order to demonstrate the final disposition of all deer.
- A final count of deer in the facility must equal zero in the TPWD database.

**VIII. In order to transfer a permitted deer breeder facility to another person:**

- The **seller** is required to submit a signed and dated Notification of Closure form. *An agent cannot sign this form.*
- The **seller** is required to submit a completed final Detail Herd Information Report. All fawns must be included on the Detail Herd Addendum sheet.
- The **seller** is required to provide a transfer permit listing all deer in the facility which will be transferred from the current breeder (**seller**) to the new applicant. The deer breeder should not activate this permit; this will be done by TPWD staff. Additionally, the effective date and time will be left blank, as well as the facility ID of the destination.
- The **buyer** is required to submit a completed Deer Breeder Program Permit application, including the \$400.00 fee, a facility diagram, certified wildlife biologist verification form and endorsement letter.

**Please note:** When a deer breeder facility is being transferred to a new owner, all paperwork from both the buyer and the seller should be submitted to the TPWD Wildlife Permits Office together.