



Frequently Asked Questions Concerning New Regulations for Deer Breeders

Movement Qualified Regulations (TPWD) and Monitored Herd Program (TAHC)

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) has new rules affecting movement of white-tailed and mule deer from breeder facilities. Beginning **April 1, 2007** deer **cannot be transferred from a deer breeder facility** unless the herd is "Movement Qualified."

What is a "movement qualified" herd?

A movement qualified herd:

- Is certified by Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) as having a CWD Monitored Herd Status of level A or higher; **or**
- Has less than five eligible deer mortalities occurring within the facility since May 24, 2006; **or**
- Has CWD test results of 'not detected' returned from the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratories on a minimum of 20% of all eligible deer mortalities occurring within a facility since May 24, 2006, and has had zero 'detected' results.

What is an eligible mortality?

An eligible mortality is any lawfully possessed deer aged 16 months or older that has died within the facility since May 24, 2006.

What's the difference between being Movement Qualified with Texas Parks & Wildlife vs. having a status level A or higher with Texas Animal Health Commission?

The primary difference is if you plan to transfer deer out of state. Each state sets their own entry requirements for moving deer into their state. Most states require three or more years of status in a Monitored Herd Program such as the Texas Animal Health Commission's Monitored Program.

For in-state transfers, breeders enrolled with TAHC who have status may not want to purchase deer from an individual who is merely movement qualified because it would lower their status with TAHC.

If I have a level A or higher status with TAHC and I purchase deer from someone with no TAHC status who is movement qualified, can I still move deer?

Yes, but you lose your TAHC status and you must maintain CWD testing on 20% of all eligible mortalities to be movement qualified.

Do I have to participate in BOTH the Texas Animal Health Commission Monitored Herd Program and Texas Parks and Wildlife Movement Qualified program?

NO. As of April 1, 2007, you have to be movement qualified to move deer from your breeder facility. To be Movement Qualified, you either have to 1) have a level A or higher status with Texas Animal Health Commission; 2) have 20% or more of your eligible deer mortalities tested at Texas Veterinary Medical Laboratories; or 3) have less than five eligible mortalities.

What if I want to sell deer to a producer in another state?

Texas Animal Health Commission's Monitored Herd Program is the ONLY program that would allow you to transfer deer out of state, once you have achieved the status level that the state of destination requires.

What happens if I fail to meet the criteria for Movement Qualified status after April 1, 2007?

No deer will be permitted to leave your facility until you meet the criteria to be movement qualified (as stated above).

Do I have to be monitored by the Texas Animal Health Commission to liberate deer into the wild?

You must meet the criteria for movement qualified status. Being movement qualified allows you the same movement avenues as being monitored by the Texas Animal Health Commission with the exception of out-of-state movement.

What happens if, after April 1, 2007, I have not reached a level A or higher status with Texas Animal Health Commission's Monitored Herd Program and I have had five or more eligible mortalities and not tested any of them?

Your herd will not be Movement Qualified and no deer will be allowed to be transferred from your facility until you gain a Movement Qualified designation.

If I am Movement Qualified by testing 20% of my eligible mortalities, will my deer have to have an annual inspection by Texas Animal Health Commission?

No. If you have 20% or more of your eligible mortalities tested, the only additional requirement will be to send a list of your deer identifications (test results) to Texas Parks and Wildlife with your Annual Report.

Is an annual herd health inspection required under the TPWD movement qualified regulation?

No.

When do I need to start keeping track of my eligible mortalities?

If you choose to be movement qualified via the TPWD program, you should begin tracking (testing) all eligible mortalities beginning May 24, 2006.

If I have three eligible mortalities and have not tested any of them can, I be movement qualified?

Yes, you can be movement qualified without any testing provided that you have no more than four eligible mortalities after May 24, 2006. Once you reach your fifth eligible mortality, you must have a 'not detected' CWD result for at least one of the five mortalities (or 20%). **You should not wait until the fifth mortality to begin testing.** Occasionally a sample sent to the lab will have an inconclusive result, or a mortality may not be discovered in time to collect a viable sample. If this were to occur with the fifth sample and you have no test results from the first 4 mortalities, you would lose your movement qualified status.

How and what samples do I collect?

The obex of the brain is the appropriate tissue for Chronic Wasting Disease testing. Samples should be collected by a licensed veterinarian or a trained individual. The head of a dead deer should be kept cool and taken to a licensed veterinarian or a trained individual for proper collection. If you are sending a whole head to the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic lab, contact the TVMDL (979-845-3414, College Station & 806-353-7478, Amarillo) for proper shipping instructions. Additional information on CWD testing can be found on the TPWD website:

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/diseases/cwd/testing>

Where do I send samples for testing?

All samples or specimens should be sent to the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Lab in College Station (979-845-3414) or Amarillo (806-353-7478), Texas.

What information needs to accompany the tissue sample?

When submitting the accession form to the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Lab, you must include the following information **in the clinical history section** of the form:

1. Species of deer
2. Unique Number of the deer the tissue was collected from
3. County of the facility the deer died in

When and where do I submit test results?

Copies of test results of all eligible mortalities should be submitted with your annual report to Texas Parks and Wildlife. Keep originals in your files.

What if I accept a deer into my facility from another facility that is not Movement Qualified?

If a person receives or accepts into a facility (that is movement qualified) a deer from a facility that is known by the person not to be a movement qualified facility, the receiving facility immediately and automatically loses movement qualified status for a period of one year from the date the transfer occurred as determined by Texas Parks and Wildlife.

What if I lose my status with Texas Animal Health Commission?

You may attain Movement Qualified status by providing the required test results to TPWD.

If I lose my movement qualified designation how can I regain it?

You can regain your movement qualified designation at any time by meeting the requirements listed in the “What is a movement qualified herd” question above.