

**NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife
Office of Fish and Wildlife Health and Forensics**

Reporting Dead or Sick Wildlife

Who to Contact

Wildlife that appears sick or that died for reasons that aren't apparent can be reported to the DEP Hotline by calling, toll-free, 877-WARN-DEP (877-927-6337). Do not report obvious road kills. This phone is answered 24/7/365. The number can also be used to report a major wildlife disease or mortality incident involving a large number of animals.

IMPORTANT: If an animal is suspected to be rabid, immediately contact your municipal animal control officer (through police dispatch) or local health department. Animals infected with rabies will display bizarre, sometimes aggressive, behavior with neurologic signs such as circling, wobbly gate, strange vocalizations and seizures. Persons witnessing animals acting like this should avoid being bitten; but if a person is bitten or exposed to the rabid animal they should seek prompt medical attention. A directory of local health departments with contact information is posted on-line: www.localhealth.nj.gov .

What to Report

The Office of Fish and Wildlife Health and Forensics is especially interested in the following kinds of reports:

- Incidents involving the death of 5 or more animals with the exception of game birds like quail ruffed grouse, and woodcock, in which one bird can be reported. Please save and refrigerate the carcass if possible and call the DFW for pick up.
- Recurring deaths of animals in the same location over a period of time
- Individual deer with symptoms that may indicate Chronic Wasting Disease (emaciation, listlessness, lowered head, drooping ears, excessive salivation, repetitive walking in set patterns)
- Incidents involving threatened or endangered species (www.njfishandwildlife.com/tandespp.htm), regardless of the cause of death or the number of animals involved.

At certain times, other kinds of reports may be solicited from the public in order to track specific wildlife disease outbreaks. If and when this becomes necessary, information will be posted on the Division of Fish and Wildlife's home page, www.njfishandwildlife.com/owhfhome.htm.