



# Deer Disease in Shelter Bay



Adenovirus hemorrhagic disease (AHD) is a sometimes fatal viral disease specific to deer that does not pose a risk to people, pets, or domestic livestock, either from contact or by eating deer meat. The presence of the disease has been confirmed on Whidbey Island and in Anacortes and is suspected among deer on the Swinomish Reservation and specifically in the Shelter Bay Community. Symptoms include: rapid or open-mouth breathing, foaming or drooling at the mouth, diarrhea (sometimes bloody), weakness, and emaciation. Death may occur in 3-5 days and fawns are particularly vulnerable to AHD.

There is no known cure or treatment for AHD. Disease transmission occurs through physical contact or airborne routes, thus making it more likely to spread in areas of high deer densities.

If you observe live deer on the Swinomish Reservation displaying symptoms of AHD, please contact Swinomish Wildlife Program personnel at the number below. If you find a carcass of a deer suspected of dying from AHD **within the past 48 hours**, please place the carcass in the designated carcass bins described below and call the provided number as soon as possible so that Wildlife personnel may examine the carcass and obtain samples for laboratory submission. Many thanks for your assistance.



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