



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2003 Wisconsin Act 179
[2003 Senate Bill 503]

Possession of Rehabilitated White-Tailed Deer in Walworth County

2003 Acts: www.legis.state.wi.us/2003/data/acts/

Act Memos: www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/act_memo/act_memo.htm

Act 179 authorizes a person holding a wildlife rehabilitation license who is rehabilitating white-tailed deer in Walworth County to possess the deer after they have been rehabilitated without holding any other license or approval required under the state Captive Wildlife Law or without being registered to keep farm-raised deer. The license holder may possess these deer only if all of the following conditions apply:

- The deer were taken from the wild before August 1, 2003.
- The license holder does all of the following:
 - Keeps the deer within an area enclosed by a double perimeter fence that complies with the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) fencing requirements for farm-raised deer.
 - Identifies the deer by tagging or by other means required by the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP).
 - Does not propagate the deer or otherwise allow the deer to reproduce.
 - Does not remove the deer or authorize their removal from the rehabilitation facilities and premises.
 - Notifies DATCP of any illnesses found in any of the deer.
 - If any of the deer dies, has the carcass tested for chronic wasting disease (CWD) and submits the test results to the DNR and DATCP.

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents.

- If any of the deer is found, as a result of testing, to have CWD, has all of the deer destroyed.

The Act establishes that legal title to the white-tailed deer covered by the Act remains with the state and requires the holder of the rehabilitation license who possesses the affected deer to notify the DNR immediately if any of the deer:

- Are not fenced or identified as specified above, or are removed from the approved facilities and premises.
- Escape from the approved facilities or premises.

If the license holder notifies the DNR that the deer are not fenced or identified as required under the Act, if the deer reproduce or are removed from the approved facilities or premises, or if the DNR determines that any of the conditions for the license holder to possess the deer are not met, the holder of the rehabilitation license shall no longer be authorized to possess the deer.

The Act specifies that the holder of the rehabilitation license may not release any of the affected deer into the wild without the prior approval of the DNR. In addition, the DNR may seize and dispose of any of the affected deer that has escaped from the rehabilitation facilities or premises if the escaped deer has traveled more than three miles from the facilities or premises or if the holder of the rehabilitation license has not had the deer returned to the land within 24 hours of the discovery of the escape.

Effective Date: April 21, 2004.

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