

## Warts on Deer

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Cutaneous Fibroma is a viral skin disease found in white-tailed deer. The disease consists of hairless tumors on the skin of white-tailed deer. The tumors rarely cause clinical problems, but on occasion the tumors will swell so large that they impede the deer's eyesight, respiration, eating, and walking. The lesions can be found anywhere on the deer's skin, and can vary in size from  $\frac{1}{4}$  to 8+ inches in diameter. Most fibromas are covered with smooth skin but some appear to be rough or "warty". Cattle, sheep, horses, and rabbits, are not susceptible to the virus and it has been found exclusively in deer. Deer to deer transmission of the virus is thought to occur through biting insects, and through direct contact with materials that might scratch the skin. Cutaneous Fibroma, while grotesque, is rarely a widespread problem among deer populations. Human infection has not been documented, only large tumors with secondary bacterial infection would cause the carcass to be unfit for consumption.

This information was adapted from the Field Manual of Wildlife Diseases in the Southeastern United States SECOND EDITION, by William R. Davidson and Victor F. Nettles. 1997. Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, College of Vet. Medicine, U. of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-7393