NEW WORLD SCREWWORM GUIDE FOR

Hunters and Landowners

What is New World screwworm?

New World screwworms (NWS) are parasitic flies (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) that lay eggs in open wounds or mucous membranes such as the nostrils, eyes, genitalia, newborn navels or mouths of live warm-blooded animals. These eggs hatch into a type of parasitic larvae (maggots) that only feed on live tissue, while other species of fly larvae prefer dead or rotting tissue. NWS larvae burrow or "screw" into live tissue with sharp mouth hooks, giving them a screw-like appearance. Infested wounds quickly become infected and, if left untreated, will kill the infested animals.

General guidance

- Monitor animals on a regular basis for signs of NWS infestation.
- Comply with all state and federal regulations related to animal movement out of NWS-infested areas.
- Keep open wounds on animals and people clean and covered.
- Treat clothing, gear, and people with proper repellents.

Monitoring for NWS

- Field observations from hunters and landowners will be important for early detection and effective management of NWS.
- Regularly reviewing game cameras, observations of wildlife while hunting or viewing animals, and inspection of hunter-harvested wildlife are important tools that can be used for NWS surveillance.
- If you suspect an NWS infestation in live or harvested wildlife, please contact your local *TPWD wildlife biologist* for further guidance and to share any applicable photos or videos.

HUNTERS: See Guidance for Carcass Disposal and Management on the next page.

Reporting Contacts

Native Wildlife

Contact your local TPWD biologist or call

(512) 389-4505

tpwd.texas.gov/biologist

Livestock or Exotic Wildlife

(800) 550-8242

Contact the on-call veterinarian

Humans

Contact your healthcare provider

dshs.texas.gov/newworldscrewworm

Companion Animals: Contact your local veterinarian

Information and resources *tpwd.texas.gov/screwworm*

Guidance for Carcass Disposal and Management

Hunters are encouraged to be vigilant and thoroughly inspect their harvested game for wounds that may contain NWS larvae (maggots).

Management of wildlife carcasses that may contain NWS larvae is important. Ensuring that no viable NWS larvae are left on or in the carcass will be of paramount importance to stop the NWS life cycle.

If you suspect that an animal you harvested is infested with NWS:

- Report the suspected case to your local *TPWD wildlife biologist*.
- Place the carcass on a tarp, plastic sheeting or hard surface to mitigate larval migration into the soil.
- Remove all larvae (maggots) from the wound or cut out the entire affected area.
  - Removed larvae should be placed in a tightly sealed container and completely submerged in 70% isopropyl alcohol.
  - Excised infested animal parts should be double-bagged and kept in a freezer until frozen solid and then may be disposed.
  - Samples should be expeditiously handed off to your local *TPWD wildlife biologist*.
  - Carcasses of animals suspected to have or infested with NWS should be:
    - Burned; or
    - Completely frozen; or
    - Buried to a depth of 4 feet or more, with tightly compacted soil, on the premises of harvest to prevent larvae from traveling through the soil column.

  Infested carcasses should not be removed from the property of harvest.

  Avoid leaving a carcass with unmitigated larvae on the landscape.
- TPWD does not recommend consuming apparently sick or infested wildlife.
- If parts of an infested animal are retained:
  - No infested animal parts shall be transported outside an infested area.
  - Non-infested animal parts retained should be thoroughly inspected prior to leaving an infested area.
  - Hunters are encouraged to debone meat from animals harvested in infested areas and properly dispose of unused carcass parts.

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