

New World Screw Worm

MESSAGING



New World Screw Worm (NWSW) is a Foreign Animal Disease found within 70 miles of the US-Mexico border.

NWSW, *Cochliomyia hominivorax*, is found in many areas of South America, some Caribbean Islands, and Mexico. If you are planning a trip with your pet or plan to source animals from this part of the world, it will be important to be aware of NWSW and the issues it can cause.

- **Infested animals may present** with large, draining, foul-smelling wounds and weight loss. Some animals may isolate themselves due to discomfort.
 - Animals can die from toxicity or secondary infection in 7-14 days if not treated.
 - Open wounds that might become infested include those caused by:
 - Spay/Neuter surgery sites, dehorning, branding, and shearing injuries create open wounds for NWSW to infect.
 - Sore mouth lesions in goats/sheep can leave open areas for NWSW to infest.
 - Remember to check the navels of newborn mammals and the mucous membranes of bodily orifices, including nostrils and sinuses, eyes, mouth, ears, vulva, anus, prepuce, and urethral fossa for infestations of NWSW.
 - Tick bites can become secondarily infested by NWSW and should be monitored
- Diagnosis can be made by working with your veterinarian for diagnostic laboratory sampling with help from the USDA. Maggots should be preserved in a sealed vial of 70% alcohol, and your veterinarian must contact the USDA or DACF within 24 hours upon suspicion of NWSW.
- Animal health officials from the USDA and DACF will investigate animals with a history of travel to affected areas. Affected animals will be quarantined until daily wound care and treatments with larvicides and insecticides have successfully eliminated the screwworm larvae.
- Prevention of this disease involves practicing good biosecurity.
 - Always quarantine new or sick animals.

New World Screwworm Resources



Animal Drugs for New World Screwworm



Information for Veterinarians

ME Animal Health Program
28 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
(207) 287- 3701