



NEW WORLD SCREWORM

DETECTING AND REPORTING SCREWORM

- FOR LARGE ANIMAL VETERINARIANS -

What is New World Screwworm?

New World Screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) is a devastating animal pest. The screwworm fly lays eggs in wounds of living animals and the resulting fly larvae (maggots) burrow into the wound to feed. These larvae can cause serious, often deadly damage, due to wound enlargement and bacterial infection. Screwworm larvae can infest cattle, sheep, horses, swine, other livestock, and less frequently humans and our domestic pets.

Detecting Screwworm in Large Animals

Perform daily animal inspection for...

- Wounds that are increasing in size, draining excessive fluid, or are malodorous. Pay particular attention to open wounds associated with umbilical stumps or wounds caused by animal husbandry practices including branding, castration, dehorning, ear-tagging or shearing.
- Lesions around body openings (ears, nose, genitals, umbilicus).
- Signs of animal discomfort or irritability (e.g., head shaking, lethargy)
- Maggots or egg masses in wounds (myiasis).
 - Older maggots have a “screw-like” appearance with bands of spines encircling the body (see image).



Screwworm maggots.
Image Credit: USDA

Report Suspected Screwworm Myiasis

Screwworm is a foreign animal disease and must be reported within 24 hours of detection.

Report: Report all suspect cases to the nearest California Animal Health and Food Safety Services office or to USDA-APHIS.

- **Collect Samples:** Gently remove a sample of 10 maggots from superficial and deep areas of the wound and place into 70% ethanol or isopropyl alcohol for additional testing by a diagnostic laboratory.
- **Sample Submission:** Follow California State Animal Health Official instructions for sample labeling and submission.

Animal Health and Food Safety Services	
Headquarters	(916) 900-5002
Redding District	(530) 225-2140
Modesto District	(209) 491-9350
Tulare District	(559) 685-3500
Ontario District	(909) 947-5932
USDA-APHIS	(916) 854-3950
	(877) 741-3690