



NEW WORLD SCREWORM

GUIDANCE FOR PET OWNERS

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 livestock, pets, wildlife, occasionally birds, and in rare cases, people.

Detecting Screwworm in Animals

Inspect animals daily for...

- Wounds that are not healing or are draining excessive fluid.
- Lesions around body openings (ears, nose, genital area).
- Signs of animal discomfort or irritability (e.g., head shaking)
- Maggots or egg masses in wounds.
 - Older maggots have a “screw-like” appearance with bands of spines encircling the body (see image).



Screwworm maggots.
Image Credit: USDA

Report Possible Screwworm Detection

If you believe that your animal may have screwworm...

- **Report:** Call the **CDFA Screwworm Hotline** at **866-922-2473**
- **Collect Samples:** Take photos of the wound and any maggots present. If instructed, collect maggots following CDFA instructions for additional testing.

Treatment of Infested Animals

- **Consult your Veterinarian:** Contact your pet’s veterinarian for treatment.
- **Quarantine:** Keep the animal quarantined until all wounds are healed to prevent screwworm spread.