Wild Tiger Health Centre Information Sheet

Disease threat: Aelurostrongylus abstrusus

Hazard description: An oviviparous respiratory nematode in the Superfamily Metastrongyloidea.

Host species: Final host species are felids, domestic and wild. Infection has been reported in wild felids (Bjork et al. 2000; Patton & Rabinowitz 1994; Konyaev 2012; Fiorello et al. 2006; González et al. 2007; Veronesi, Traversa, et al. 2016). Indirect life cycle. Intermediate hosts are molluscs. Rodents, birds, amphibians and reptiles may act as paratenic hosts.

Pathogenesis: Pathogenicity is generally considered low, but histological evidence of catarrhal bronchitis reported in European wild cats (Veronesi, Traversa, et al. 2016).

Diagnosis: L1 in faeces/pharyngeal swabs.

Free-ranging tiger occurrence: In wildlife sanctuary in Thailand – 14/19 scats positive (Patton & Rabinowitz 1994).

Distribution: Considered worldwide.

Assumptions: None.

Limitations: None.