Wild Tiger Health Centre Information Sheet

Disease threat: Aujeszky's disease / Pseudorabies

Hazard description: Aujeszky's Disease is caused by suid herpes virus type 1.

Host species: It is mainly a disease of suid species (wild and domesticated) which are the only natural hosts. Other mammalian species are susceptible, including large felids, but these are considered dead-end hosts. Wild felids would be most likely to acquire infection from consumption of infected wild boar prey, although clinical disease in wild boar may not be common. Environmental survival is poor (Ruiz-Fons 2012a). The virus has been associated with acute mortality in a free-ranging Florida panther (Glass et al. 1994), and recently in a free-ranging Iberian lynx (Masot et al. 2017).

Pathogenesis: SHV-1 is a neurotropic virus, and acute neurological disease may be see in piglets, but in adults is more usually subclinical. Infection is often fatal in dead-end host species within a few days of infection with neurological signs +/- respiratory signs.

Diagnosis: Virus isolation and PCR used in wild boar (latent infection possible in trigeminal ganglion). Serology has limited value in non-suids, due to rapidity of disease. Serology may be a useful surveillance test for wild boar (virus neutralisation, Western Blot and Elisa) (Ruiz-Fons 2012a).

Vaccination: Currently none.

Free-ranging tiger occurrence: No reports of disease found. In a recent survey conducted in Amur tigers 5/17 individuals were serologically positive (Naidenko et al, 2018), but all were alive 6 months after sampling.

Distribution: Worldwide (Masot et al. 2017).

Assumptions: None.

Limitations: None.