Wild Tiger Health Centre Information Sheet

Disease threat: Chlamydophila felis

Hazard description: A gram-negative obligate intracellular bacterium, which is ubiquitous and common in domestic cats. Survival outside the host is poor, and close contact is required for transmission (Gruffydd-Jones et al. 2009).

Host species: Domestic felids are the main host. Serological evidence of infection with a *Chlamydophila* sp. has been reported in free-ranging European wild cats (27%, n=22) (Millán & Rodríguez 2009) and in one free-ranging Iberian lynx (Millán et al. 2009). Severe, purulent conjunctivitis associated with *Chlamydophila felis* infection has been documented in a free-ranging Eurasian lynx (Marti et al, 2019). There is no evidence of zoonotic infection.

Pathogenesis: Primarily a conjunctival infection. Clinical signs include ocular discharge and conjunctivitis, usually in young cats (Gruffydd-Jones et al. 2009). Treatment of infected individuals may fail to prevent ongoing shedding.

Diagnosis: Serology, PCR on conjunctival swab.

Vaccination: Inactivated and modified licensed live vaccines are available for domestic cats.

Free-ranging tiger occurrence: No reports found.

Distribution: Considered worldwide.

Assumptions: None.

Limitations: None.