Wild Tiger Health Centre Information Sheet

Disease threat: Clostridium perfringens

Hazard description: A bacterial toxin-producing intestinal pathogen.

Host species: Wide host range. Infection has been reported from captive large felids (tiger, lion and leopard), including lethal disease e.g. (Zhang et al. 2012; Neiffer 2001; Zeira et al. 2012). Absence of reports from free-living wild carnivores suggest increased pathogenicity may be associated with captivity per se.

Pathogenesis: Toxin-induced enterocolitis and/or toxaemia, possibly death.

Diagnosis: Faecal culture.

Vaccination: None.

Free-ranging tiger occurrence: No reports found.

Distribution: Considered worldwide.

Assumptions: Increased pathogenicity associated with captivity.

Limitations: None.