Wild Tiger Health Centre Information Sheet

Disease threat: Cryptosporidium spp.

Hazard description: Ubiquitous intestinal coccidian parasite (Taylor et al. 2007).

Host species: *C. felis* is likely felid adapted, and considered non-pathogenic (Taylor et al. 2007). *C parvum* is less host-specific and may infect a wide range of mammalian species, including man.

Pathogenesis: Likely to be of clinical significance in neonates, in association with immunosuppression (FIV/CDV/FeLV etc.) (Taylor et al. 2007), and/or in association with captivity and intensive housing, overcrowding, poor hygiene and stress etc. (Duszynski & Upton 2001).

Diagnosis: Oocyst with four sporozoites. Speciation likely to require molecular techniques.

Vaccination: None.

Free-ranging tiger occurrence: No reports found.

Distribution: Worldwide distribution (Taylor et al. 2007).

Assumptions: Low pathogenicity in otherwise healthy free-ranging wild felids.

Limitations: None.