Wild Tiger Health Centre Information Sheet

Disease threat: Demodex spp.

Hazard description: An arachnid mite, which spends its entire life-cycle on the host, in hair follicles and sebaceous glands (Taylor et al. 2007).

Host species: Species within the genus *Demodex* are likely host-specific, e.g. *D. cati* in domestic cats. *D. tigris* is a species name which has been used to describe a *Demodex* mite from captive tigers in a zoo in China (Shi et al. 1985).

Pathogenesis: *D. cati* rarely causes disease in domestic cats (erythema, papules, crusts, alopecia); disease may be associated with underlying debility (Taylor et al. 2007).

Diagnosis: Skin scrapes.

Free-ranging tiger occurrence: No reports found.

Distribution: Considered worldwide.

Assumptions: Presence worldwide. Low pathogenic potential in otherwise healthy individuals.

Limitations: Test sensitivity for mite detection.