Wild Tiger Health Centre Information Sheet

Disease threat: Dermatophytes

Hazard description: Dermatophytosis is a fungal skin infection of domestic cats, usually caused by *Microsporum canis* (Frymus et al. 2013). Fungi of the genera *Trichophyton* and *Epidermophyton* can also be responsible.

Host species: All animals potentially, including humans. Evidence of infection has been reported from free-ranging felids in Brazil (Albano et al. 2013).

Pathogenesis: Healthy skin is an effective barrier to the establishment of infection. Many healthy domestic cats can be asymptomatic carriers, but environmental survival can also be prolonged. Clinical signs include alopecia and desquamation. Poor hygiene is a predisposing factor. Disease has been reported from captive tigers (Sykes & Ramsay, 2007; Takatori et al. 1981). Clinical disease has also been reported from free-ranging adult and juvenile Florida panthers *(Puma concolor coryi)* (Cusack and Cunningham, 2018). In the latter report, two adult animals died as a result of the disease. (NB This subspecies of puma suffers from a high degree of inbreeding depression).

Diagnosis: Clinical, plus Wood's lamp positive (not in all cases), and confirmation by culture.

Free-ranging tiger occurrence: No reports found.

Distribution: Considered worldwide. Assume present in all tiger range states.

Assumptions: Assume low pathogenicity in otherwise healthy tigers.

Limitations: None.