Wild Tiger Health Centre Information Sheet

Disease threat: **Eucoleus aerophilus.**
(Syn Capillaria)

Hazard description: A nematode of the respiratory system in the Superfamily Trichuroidea. Eggs have characteristic bipolar cap (Taylor et al. 2007).

Host species: The life cycle is indirect: earthworms are the intermediate host. Final host species canids, felids and mustelids (Taylor et al. 2007). Reported in wild felids including Amur leopard (Seryodkin et al. 2012; Zheleznova & Salmanova 2012) and Amur tiger in RFE (Seryodkin et al. 2012).

Pathogenesis: Infection in the final host may cause tracheal and bronchial irritation.

Diagnosis: Eggs in faeces (characteristic bipolar cap).

Free-ranging tiger occurrence: *Eucoleus* sp. eggs detected in Amur tiger faecal sample in RFE (Seryodkin et al. 2012).

Distribution: Likely worldwide.

Assumptions: Assume low pathogenicity wild felids, based on absence of disease reports.

Limitations: None.