Wild Tiger Health Centre Information Sheet

Disease threat: Feline papilloma virus

Hazard description: Epitheliotrophic virus causing mucosal or cutaneous lesions.

Host species: *Felis catus* papilloma viruses infect felid species, domestic and wild.

Pathogenesis: In domestic cats, several manifestations are recognised including cutaneous and oral papillomas, cutaneous viral plaques, Bowenoid in situ carcinoma, cutaneous and oral squamous cell carcinomas (SCC) and cutaneous sarcoids (Munday 2014).
Infection has been associated with oral papillomatous lesions in several wild felid species including Asian lion (*Panthera leo persica*), African lion, snow leopard (*Uncia uncia*), clouded leopard (Neofelis nebulosa), Florida panther, bobcat and Asian desert cat (*Felis beiti*) see (Munday 2014). Oral papillomas in free-ranging African lion were found to be more common in association with co-infection with lion-associated FIV (Roelke et al. 2009). Cutaneous sarcoids have also been reported from captive African lion and mountain lion, possibly with a link to feeding of infected bovine carcases, suggesting species cross-over (Munday 2014).
In addition, cutaneous plaques have been reported from snow leopards, in which species there is the possibility of malignant transformation to SCC (Munday 2014).

Diagnosis: Serology (but not necessarily associated with current infection); clinical appearance of lesions e.g. under the tongue; histopathology of lesions. PCR saliva assay developed for use in snow leopards (Mitsouras et al. 2011).

Vaccination: None.

Free-ranging tiger occurrence: No reports found.

Distribution: Widespread. Assume present in all tiger range states.

Assumptions: None.

Limitations: Lack of data on either prevalence or pathogenicity in *Panthera* species.