Wild Tiger Health Centre Information Sheet

Disease threat: Giardia (intestinalis)

Hazard description: Intestinal protozoan parasite, direct life cycle. Classification remains controversial, but it is likely that are several assemblages within the species complex *G. intestinalis*, with a degree of host specificity (Taylor et al. 2007).

Host species: Wide range of mammalian hosts, including man.

Pathogenesis: Common cause of waterborne human intestinal disease. Rarely reported as causing *disease* in free-ranging wild animal hosts, but may be more of a concern in young captive felids (Olson & Buret 2001).

Diagnosis: Cysts in faeces – intermittent excretion (repeat three times). Faecal PCR. Serology IgM, IgG.

Vaccination: None.

Free-ranging tiger occurrence: No reports found.

Distribution: Considered worldwide.

Assumptions: Low pathogenicity in otherwise healthy felids.

Limitations: None.