Wild Tiger Health Centre Information Sheet

Disease threat: Physaloptera praeputialis

Hazard description: A gastric nematode of carnivores in Superfamily Spiruroidea (Taylor *et al*. 2007).

Host species: Most reports found from felid species, occasionally dog (Taylor *et al.* 2007); reports also found from mustelids (Hoberg *et al.* 1990). Cited as detected in both tiger and leopard (Konyaev 2012; Oshmarin P. G. 1963), and captive tigers at the Nandankanan zoological park in Orissa, India (Mahali *et al.* 2010). Gastric nematodes reported from wild Amur leopard post-mortem examination (*pers comm*. J. Lewis). The life cycle is indirect: eggs are ingested by coprophagous beetles followed by final host ingesting paratenic hosts.

Pathogenesis: Adult worms attach to gastric mucosa, potentially causing small ulcers, gastritis, emesis etc. (Taylor *et al.* 2007). No reports of disease per se in wild felids found.

Diagnosis: Eggs in faeces.

Free-ranging tiger occurrence: Aside from citation in Konyaev 2012 and Oshmarin 1963, no other reports found.

Distribution: Little data found except China, Africa, Americas (Taylor *et al.* 2007), and RFE (Oshmarin P. G. 1963). Consider likely present in tiger range states.

Assumptions: Assume low pathogenicity in wild felids.

Limitations: None.