Wild Tiger Health Centre Information Sheet

Disease threat: Sarcoptes spp.

Hazard description: A highly contagious arachnid mite, which causes sarcoptic mange.

Host species: The epidemiology is complex with a wide mammalian host range, including man (Gakuya et al. 2011).

Pathogenesis: often intensely pruritic and causing crusting skin lesions; infection ***could*** be very debilitating. The role of environmental contamination is unknown, and any role of FIV is also unknown, but in man, disease is associated with immunosuppression (Fischer et al. 2012). Domestic cats (Huang & Lien 2013; Hawkins et al. 1987; Malik et al. 2006; Kershaw 1989; Hardy et al. 2012), and free-ranging wild felids including Eurasian lynx (Ryser-Degiorgis et al. 2002), cheetah (Gakuya et al. 2012; Pence & Ueckermann 2002; Gakuya et al. 2011), leopard (Pence & Ueckermann 2002) and lion (Gakuya et al. 2011; Pence & Ueckermann 2002) are susceptible.

Diagnosis: Deep skin scrapes, serology (Nimmervoll et al. 2013).

Free-ranging tiger occurrence: No reports found. Exposure from infected prey species is possible (Gakuya et al. 2011).

Distribution: Considered worldwide.

Assumptions: None.

Limitations: Test sensitivity.