# Wild Tiger Health Centre Information Sheet

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## Disease threat: Spirocerca lupi

***Hazard description***: Oesophageal nematode from Superfamily Spiruroidea (Taylor et al. 2007).

***Host species:*** Canids and felids (Taylor et al. 2007). Life cycle indirect as for *Physaloptera*: eggs are ingested by coprophagous beetles followed by final host ingesting paratenic hosts. Reported from free-ranging felids (Pence et al. 2003; Kelly & Penner 1950; Upadhye et al. 2001; Konyaev 2012). Gastric nematodes reported from wild Amur leopard post-mortem examination (*pers comm*. J. Lewis). Cited as reported in tiger (unknown if free-ranging) (Upadhye et al. 2001; Konyaev 2012).

***Pathogenesis:*** Once in final host, L3 are migratory via coeliac artery then aorta, crossing over to oesophagus, with associated potential arterial and oesophageal pathology. Aortic thromboembolism reported in domestic dog (Gal et al. 2005). Aortic lesions reported from ocelot in Texas USA (Pence et al. 2003).

***Diagnosis***: Eggs in faeces.

***Free-ranging tiger occurrence:*** Cited as reported in tiger (unknown if free-ranging) (Upadhye et al. 2001; Konyaev 2012). No details, and no other reports found.

***Distribution:*** Worldwide, most common in tropical and subtropical areas (Otranto et al. 2015). Assume likely in all tiger range states.

***Assumptions***: Assume low pathogenicity in wild felids, based on lack of reports of disease.

***Limitations***: None.