Wild Tiger Health Centre Information Sheet

Disease threat: Spirometra spp.

Hazard description: A cestode in the order Pseudophyllidea, Family Diphlyllobothriidae (along with *Diphylobothrium*).

Host species: The final hosts are dogs, cats, wild carnivores, and occasionally man. There are two intermediate host stages: in copepods; and in amphibian, reptiles, birds and mammals (Taylor et al. 2007). *Spirometra* species have been reported in wild felids (Priya et al. 2010; Konyaev 2012; Fiorello et al. 2006; Sulikhan et al 2018; Hou et al. 2020).

Pathogenesis: Disease is unlikely in the final animal host, but diarrhoea has been reported from captive tiger cubs (Dhoot et al. 2010), and heavy burdens have been reported in a captive leopard in India (Gawande et al. 2007). Disease in man, as an intermediate host, does occur and is termed sparganosis (Taylor et al. 2007).

Diagnosis: Eggs in faeces.

Free-ranging tiger occurrence: Cited as being detected in tiger, no further details (Konyaev 2012).

Distribution: South America and Asia (Taylor et al. 2007). Assume present in all tiger range states, although perhaps less likely in RFE, NE China.

Assumptions: Assume clinically of low significance in free-ranging wild felids.

Limitations: None.