# Wild Tiger Health Centre Information Sheet

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## Disease threat: Thelazia callipaeda

***Hazard description***: Known as the oriental eye worm; nematode in Superfamily Spiruroidea.

***Host species:*** Wild and domestic canids, felids and mustelids; lagomorphs (European brown hare (Otranto et al. 2009) and European rabbit (Mihalca et al. 2016); also zoonotic see (Otranto et al. 2015). Specifically reported from European wild cats in Italy (Otranto et al. 2009) and Romania (Mihalca et al. 2016), and Eurasian lynx in RFE (Khrustalev et al. 2015). The life cycle is indirect: intermediate hosts are drosophilid flies (Fruit flies).

***Pathogenesis:*** May cause conjunctivitis, epiphora, keratitis, ocular discharge, and corneal ulcers (Otranto et al. 2015).

***Diagnosis***: Direct observation of parasite in conjunctival sac; larvae in lacrimal secretions.

***Free-ranging tiger occurrence:*** No reports found.

***Distribution:*** Historically considered Far East, but more recently has spread to western Europe. Assume present in all tiger range states. Historical reports from RFE from domestic cat (Oshmarin P. G. 1963). Recent studies suggest a wildlife reservoir of natural infection, with positive cases reported in sables, raccoon dogs, foxes and lynx in the RFE (Khrustalev et al. 2015).

***Assumptions***: Assume low pathogenicity in wild felids, and low clinical significance.

***Limitations***: Little data found on infection in wild felids, excluding wild cat and lynx.