Wild Tiger Health Centre Information Sheet

Disease threat: Toxascaris leonina

Hazard description: A nematode of the small intestine in the Superfamily Ascaridoidea (Taylor *et al.* 2007).

Host species: Canids and felids.

Pathogenesis: The life cycle is indirect: mice are the intermediate hosts. Once ingested by the final host there is no larval migration. Co-infection is often reported with *Toxocara* (Taylor *et al.* 2007). Pathogenicity in domestic cats is low: this is likely to be the case in wild felids (lack of reports). *Toxascaris* has been reported in tigers at the Nandankanan zoological park in Orissa, India (Mahali *et al.* 2010).

Diagnosis: Thick-shelled ascarid eggs in faeces.

Free-ranging tiger occurrence: Isolated from free-ranging Amur tiger in the Russian Far East (González *et al.* 2007) and reported from the Panna Tiger Reserve in India (Nigam *et al.* 2016). Eggs identified in scats of tiger in Thailand (Patton & Rabinowitz, 1994).

Distribution: Worldwide (Taylor *et al.* 2007). Assume present in all tiger range states.

Assumptions: Assume low pathogenicity in wild felids.

Limitations: None.