Wild Tiger Health Centre Information Sheet

Disease threat: Trichinella spiralis

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

Host species: Most mammals (Taylor et al. 2007), including man.

Pathogenesis: Eggs are laid by adult nematodes in the small intestine; L1 stages then migrate to muscle, and are arrested there until ingested by another host. Ingestion of L1 is followed by development into adult in the stomach. If many L1 are ingested, catarrhal enteritis can ensue. In felids this event is likely to be associated with predation/scavenging of infected mammalian muscle tissue (Taylor et al. 2007).

Diagnosis: L1 in muscle tissue – squashed muscle tissue preps or specific tissue digest required (Taylor et al. 2007).

Free-ranging tiger occurrence: No reports found.

Distribution: Worldwide (some countries are reported to be free of infection e.g. Mainland GB, Australia, Denmark) (Taylor et al. 2007; Learmount et al. 2015). Likely present in all tiger range states.

Assumptions: Assume incidence of *disease* in wild felids low due to lack of reports.

Limitations: Prevalence data from tiger range states.