Wild Tiger Health Centre Information Sheet

Disease threat: Yersinia pseudotuberculosis and Yersinia enterocolitica

Hazard description: Gram negative coccobacilli, with faeco-oral transmission route.

Host species: Reservoir hosts are birds and rodents. There is a wide mammalian and avian host range (including man) (Najdenski & Speck 2012).

Pathogenesis: Enteritis and septicaemia, in some cases lethal, have been reported in domestic cats (Spearman et al. 1979; Obwolo & Gruffydd-Jones 1977; Iannibelli et al. 1991), and in captive wild felids (Sharma et al. 2003; Owston et al. 2006; Tasler et al. 1979; Pierce et al. 1973).

Diagnosis: Culture e.g. faeces.

Vaccination: None.

Free-ranging tiger occurrence: No reports found. Rodent prey consumption may be more likely in the winter months in range states of China/RFE, when large prey species are scarce.

Distribution: Largely considered of European origin (Najdenski & Speck 2012), but has spread to other parts of the world, and could be considered global in distribution (Long et al. 2010). Present in RFE (ProMED-mail 2007b).

Assumptions: None.

Limitations: Lack of prevalence data in tiger range states.