

Subject: New World Screwworm: Information for Veterinarians

Date: June 23, 2026

Dear Connecticut Veterinarians,

We are sharing important information regarding **New World Screwworm (NWS)** (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) following recent national surveillance alerts in animals in the southern United States. While no cases have been identified in Connecticut, early detection of the maggots is crucial to prevent establishment should an introduction occur.

Connecticut Department of Agriculture has issued clarifying notices on CVI examination requirements for animal imports. For each examination, the certifying veterinarian shall include the following statements in the record maintained by the licensee:

- A. "This animal does not originate from an Infested Zone," and
- B. "This animal has been examined for open wounds and for clinical signs or evidence of New World Screwworm infestation and has been found to be free of both."

Full notices can be found on CT DoAg's [New World Screwworm webpage](#),

Animals imported from Infested Zones should be carefully evaluated for skin lesions of any size.

Identification

Please remain vigilant for wounds with larval infestations demonstrating characteristics consistent with NWS, including:

- Rapidly expanding, painful wounds with tissue destruction
- Larvae that are straight, cylindrical, and often seen deep within the tissue
- Darkly pigmented tracheal trunks visible through the last few larval segments
- Presence of multiple larvae in a wound without obvious necrotic tissue (unlike common secondary myiasis)

If you encounter an unusual or aggressive wound myiasis that does not fit typical patterns, NWS should be considered.

Immediate Reporting Requirements

NWS is a **nationally notifiable foreign animal disease**. Suspected cases in any warm-blooded animal- (livestock, pets, wildlife, or humans) must be reported **immediately**.

Please contact:

- **Connecticut State Veterinarian's Office:** 860-713-2505 office or 860-713-2725
- **USDA APHIS Veterinary Services:** 866-536-7593

- If human involvement is suspected, notify the **Connecticut Department of Public Health: 860-509-7994**
- If you see wildlife with signs of screwworm, contact the APHIS Wildlife Services office in your state by calling 866-4USDA-WS (866-487-3297).

Do not discard larvae or dispose of the wound dressings. They will be needed for laboratory confirmation by the University of Connecticut Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory / National Veterinary Services Laboratory.

Next Steps for Clinical Management

While awaiting guidance from state or federal officials:

- Secure the animal to prevent further self trauma.
- Cover the wound to limit environmental exposure.
- Preserve any larvae collected in 70% ethanol for diagnostic submission and identification (do not freeze).
- To prevent further environmental contamination, all additional larvae beyond what is needed for diagnostic submission should be killed via placement in 70% ethanol or 5% to 10% formalin. These containers (tubes, small jars, etc.) should then be placed in a leak proof zip lock bag to ensure adequate containment.

State and federal animal health officials will provide further instructions on sample submission, quarantine, and case management.

Thank you for your continued attention to this important animal and public health issue. Your vigilance is essential to early detection and rapid response.

Dr. Thamus Morgan, the State Veterinarian at the Department of Agriculture, may be reached at 860-713-2505 or ctstate.vet@ct.gov.

Dr. Kathy Kudish, the State Public Health Veterinarian at the Department of Public Health, may be reached at 860-509-7994 or Kathy.kudish@ct.gov.

Sincerely,

Thamus J Morgan, DVM, MPH, DACVPM

Kathy Kudish, DVM, MSPH




Additional Resources

CT DoAg: [New World Screwworm Information](#)

USDA: [NWS Response Playbook](#)

USDA: [New World Screwworm Prevention for Animals](#)

USDA: [Confirmed Detections of New World Screwworm | APHIS](#)

AVMA: <https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/one-health/veterinarians-and-public-health/new-world-screwworm>

Clinician's Brief: [Screwworm in Companion Animals: Diagnosis & Treatment](#)

USDA: [New World Screwworm: Veterinary Considerations for Dogs and Cats that Travel Internationally](#)

CDC: [Lab Identification of New World Screwworm](#)

FDA: [Animal Drugs for New World Screwworm | FDA](#)

USDA: [NWS Webinar for Veterinarians and Animal Health Regulatory Officials](#)