



What is New World Screwworm?

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The New World screwworm is a type of fly whose larvae/maggots infest the living tissues of warm-blooded animals. This can cause painful and severe wounds in infested animals.

Unlike more typical maggot behavior, NWS larvae feed on living tissue as opposed to dead tissue.

NWS Can Affect

- Any warm-blooded animals, including:
 - Birds
 - Cattle
 - Horses
 - Sheep and goats
 - Pets
 - Wildlife
 - In rare cases, people



How do we manage it?

The New World screwworm is managed and controlled using the “sterile insect technique” to control reproduction among the fly population. Immediately tell your healthcare provider if you feel or see maggots in your wounds or anywhere on your body.

- Do NOT try and remove any maggots and/or eggs by yourself
- Do NOT throw away any eggs or live maggots and this can cause spreading of NWS in the area.

Sterile Insect Technique Explained

The sterile insect technique (SIT) is a tool used for controlling the spread of NWS by releasing sterile flies into affected areas. When these sterile flies mate with female screwworm flies, they lay unfertilized eggs that do not hatch. Female screwworm flies typically only mate once in their lifetime, so by mating with a sterile male she only lays unviable eggs, breaking the life cycle of the fly. A female fly can lay hundreds of eggs at a time, multiple times, with the potential of 4000+ eggs in her lifetime.