

SCREWWORM ERADICATION PROGRAM



New World Screwworms are fly larvae (maggots) that can infest livestock and other warm blooded animals, including people. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has confirmed the detection of New World Screwworm in a stray dog that was found in Homestead, Florida.

- The presence of the New World Screwworm was first reported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture on October 3, 2016, after samples collected from the Key Deer Wildlife Refuge in Big Pine Key, in Monroe County, were tested and confirmed positive.
- Screwworm larvae most often enter an animal through an open wound and feed on the animal's living flesh. If detected early, animals can be treated and fully recover.
- Rapid and thorough response efforts are imperative to prevent the spread to people and other animals.
- If you suspect your pet, horse or livestock is infected with screwworm, please contact your veterinarian.
- To report a suspected case of screwworm in animals call 1-800-HELP-FLA (1-800-435-7352). Non-Florida residents can call 1-850-410-3800.
- While not common in humans, if you notice a suspicious lesion on your body or suspect you may have contracted screwworms, seek immediate medical attention.

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is working aggressively to prevent the spread of screwworm and eradicate this invasive pest. Efforts include surveillance, inspection, trapping, control methods, treatment and public outreach.

Effective October 3, 2016, FDACS established an animal health inspection zone, including all Florida Keys. Owners traveling northbound out of the Keys with animals must stop at the inspection station for a screwworm assessment of their animal.

For information on the New World Screwworm, including to receive updates and learn how to take precautions for yourself and your pets, please visit FreshFromFlorida.com or call 1-800-HELP-FLA (1-800-435-7352). There is also a feature online so people can submit photos of suspected cases of screwworm and have an FDACS veterinarian make an initial assessment.



Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Adam H. Putnam, Commissioner