

2026 Veterinary Advisory #5

Update: New World Screwworm Information for Veterinarians

- On June 3, 2026, New World screwworm (NWS) was detected in a calf in Zavala County, Texas – the first detection in US since being eliminated in 1966, and again in 2017 following a localized outbreak among Key deer in Florida.
- As of July 8, NWS has since been detected in 31 animals in Texas (17 cattle, 3 goats, 10 sheep, and 1 dog) and 1 dog in New Mexico.
- NWS has not been detected in New York State (NYS). The NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYS AGM) is restricting animal importations, including dogs, cats, and livestock, from states with confirmed NWS cases to prevent the introduction of NWS into the State.
 - Details are available on the [NYS AGM animal import and export webpage](#).
- Risk to NYC pets and wildlife remains low. Veterinarians should consider NWS in animals with myiasis and travel history to affected areas.
- FDA has issued Emergency Use Authorizations (EUA) and conditional approvals for NWS drug products. See [New World Screwworm: Information for Veterinarians](#).
- For more information on NWS for NYC veterinarians, see [2025 veterinary advisory #7: NWS information for veterinarians](#).
- Immediately report any suspected case in an animal to the NYS AGM at 518-457-3502 and the [USDA-APHIS Area Veterinarian](#)

Please share with your colleagues in Veterinary Medicine and your staff.

July 8, 2026

Dear Colleagues,

This advisory provides an update on confirmed US cases of New World screwworm (NWS) (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*), new animal import restrictions from the New York State (NYS) Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYS AGM), and FDA guidance on authorized drug products for NWS treatment and prevention. For more information on NWS, see [2025 Veterinary Advisory #7: New World Screwworm Information for Veterinarians](#).

NWS Detected in Animals in the United States (US)

On June 3, 2026, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) confirmed the first US detection of NWS, the first detection in the US since eradication in 1966 aside from a localized outbreak in 2016-2017 in Florida Key deer.

As of July 8, 2026, 31 animal cases have been confirmed in Texas (17 cattle, 3 goats, 10 sheep, and 1 dog), and one dog from New Mexico. The outbreak is rapidly evolving. Ongoing detections and

updated information about US response to NWS can be found on screwworm.gov. USDA, the Department of the Interior, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and other federal, state, and local partners are using a One Health approach to prevent further spread among domestic animals (livestock and companion), wildlife, and people. For more on the coordinated response, see the [USDA NWS Response Playbook](#).

New York State Animal Import Restrictions

Effective June 16, 2026, NYS AGM issued an emergency order restricting importation of domestic animals from states with confirmed NWS. Key importation requirements are summarized below. For updated guidance, see the [NYS AGM animal import and export](#) webpage.

Proper adherence to NYS restrictions requires an understanding of NWS management. An **Infested Zone** is the area immediately surrounding an **Infested Premise** on which NWS-infested animals (domestic or wild) or NWS flies were detected. Current infested zones can be found on the USDA [current status page](#), which includes links to a [dashboard of current NWS detections](#) and to individual state websites that display infested zones. Current states with infested zones include [Texas](#) and [New Mexico](#).

The NYS AGM Orders state:

- No animal infested with NWS may enter NYS.
- Dogs and cats originating from a state with an NWS **Infested Zone** (anywhere in the state) are **prohibited** from entering NYS for the purposes of rescue, adoption, transfer, sale, lease, sponsorship, or gift.
- All domestic animals (including owned dogs and cats) originating from an **Infested Premise**, or a premise under investigation may not enter NYS until the premise is declared free of NWS by the originating state's animal health authority.
- All domestic animals (including owned dogs and cats) originating from any state with one or more **Infested Zones** (anywhere in the state):
 - Require a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) issued by an accredited veterinarian within 5 days of entry with a statement that the animals were inspected and found free of NWS.
 - If originating from **within** an **Infested Zone**, must also receive prophylactic treatment with an FDA-authorized, conditionally approved, or Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) NWS product no more than 14 days prior to entry. The CVI must document the product name, date administered, and route of administration.
- Hatching eggs and day-old chicks are exempt from these requirements.

Guidance for NYC Veterinarians

At this time, the risk of NWS to NYC pets and wildlife is low. Veterinarians should consider NWS in animals with myiasis and recent travel history to affected areas, including Texas and New Mexico.

Myiasis due to NWS is particularly damaging as larvae feed on living tissue. Adult female NWS flies can deposit hundreds of eggs in open wounds or mucous membrane tissues in body orifices including the ears, eyes, nose, mouth, vagina, and rectum. After hatching, the larvae burrow into the wound

and feed on living tissue, causing extensive tissue damage, pain, debilitation, secondary infections, and rarely, death.

Treatment should include physical removal of all larvae, debridement of necrotic tissue, wound care, pain management, and possible use of an antiparasitic. Orbital myiasis may require extensive debridement and sometimes enucleation. Any suspected NWS larvae should be put in sterile, sealed containers with 70% alcohol with enough volume to submerge. All larvae should be accounted for and **never** discarded in the trash. Larvae will be used to confirm a diagnosis, and proper disposal will prevent the establishment of NWS in the local environment (see Appendix). Additional information from USDA for small animal veterinarians can be found [here](#).

FDA Authorized Drugs for NWS

FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine has issued EUAs and conditional approvals for multiple NWS drug products. Specific requirements for prescribing, informed consent, recordkeeping, and adverse event reporting apply when using these products. Veterinarians should consult the FDA webpage [New World Screwworm: Information for Veterinarians](#) before prescribing.

If you suspect NWS:

- Immediately report the case to the NYS AGM at 518-457-3502 and the [USDA-APHIS Area Veterinarian](#)
- Follow additional instructions in the [USDA-APHIS SOP for Possible Detections of New World Screwworm in Animals](#)

Additional Resources

- [New World Screwworm | American Veterinary Medical Association](#)
- [New World Screwworm: Be Aware and Prepare \(Information for Veterinarians\) | USDA-APHIS](#)
- [New World Screwworm | USDA-APHIS](#)
- [Myiasis – Distinguishing NWS from Cuterebra \(Botflies\) | Utah Department of Agriculture and Food](#)
- [Cochliomyia hominivorax | Companion Animal Parasite Council](#)

As always, we appreciate your continued collaboration with our efforts to monitor public health issues in New York City.

Sincerely,

Asha Abdool, MPH; Maya Hajny Fernandez, MPH; Renee King, MPH; Kevin Lovingood, MPH; Ryan MacDonald, MPH; Marc Paladini, MPH; Christina Ng, MPH; Sally Slavinski, DVM, MPH, DACVPM
Zoonotic and Vector-borne Disease
Bureau of Communicable Disease
ZIVDU@health.nyc.gov
347-396-2600

References

1. Pezzi M, et al. Cutaneous myiasis in cats and dogs: Cases, predisposing conditions and risk factors. Vet Med Sci. 2021 Mar;7(2):378-384. doi: 10.1002/vms3.370. Epub 2020 Dec 18. PMID: 33336900; PMCID: PMC8025654.
2. Merck Veterinary Manual, 2022. Dipterans that Produce Myiasis in Animals

Visit our webpage for information and resources for veterinarians: [Zoonotic and Vector-borne Diseases: Information for Providers](#)

If you do not receive these alerts via email and would like to be added to the distribution list, email zivdu@health.nyc.gov

Report animal diseases to the NYC Health Department:

- Online through a [secure web-based reporting platform](#)
- Call 347-396-2600
- Fax the [Animal Disease Case Report form](#) to 347-396-2753

Report upon suspicion: Anthrax, brucellosis, glanders, influenza (novel with pandemic potential), mpox, plague, Q fever, SARS, tularemia

For rabies, call the Animal Bite Unit at 646-364-1799 to report suspect rabid animals or for assistance with pets exposed to rabies.

Report upon laboratory diagnosis: Arboviral encephalitides, carbapenem-resistant organism (CRO), leptospirosis, psittacosis, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, salmonellosis, tuberculosis

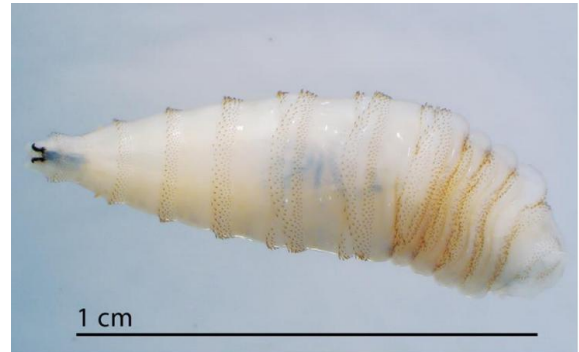
Report within 24 hours any outbreak or suspected outbreak of any disease, condition, or syndrome, of known or unknown etiology, which may pose a danger to public health.

Appendix



Image courtesy of Mark Fox, CDC

Figure 1. New World screwworm larvae are smaller than bot fly larvae.



Ventral view showing mandibles. Image courtesy of Mark Fox, CDC

Figure 2. NWS larvae are usually 6.5-17 mm long, muscidiform (tapering anteriorly and truncate posteriorly) in shape, with encircling bands of short 1-2 and 3 pointed spines on each body segment.



Figure 3. NWS adult flies are about the size of a common housefly, or slightly larger. The fly has orange eyes, metallic blue or green body, and three dark longitudinal stripes down the back.
Image courtesy of Denise Bonilla, U.S. Department of Agriculture