



What Is New World Screwworm?

New World screwworm (NWS) is a parasitic fly whose larvae burrow into living flesh. Unlike other common blow flies, NWS larvae feed on living tissue, causing serious injuries.



Who Can Be Affected?

- All warm-blooded animals
- Livestock (cattle, sheep, goats, horses)
- Pets (dogs and cats)
- Wildlife (including birds)
- Humans (rare, but possible)



Report Suspicious Cases

Livestock or Pets

Texas Animal Health Commission

Phone: 800-550-8242

Find the list of regional offices:

tahc.texas.gov/agency/contact.html#regions

Wildlife

Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Phone: 512-389-4505

Find wildlife biologists by county:

tpwd.texas.gov/wildlife

Humans

Public Health Region 7 Zoonosis

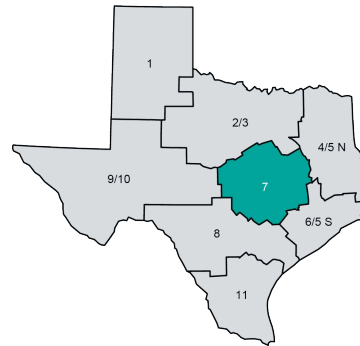
1010 Old Waco Road

Temple, TX 76502

Phone: 254-771-6784

Fax: 254-771-2662

Email: DSHS.HSR7.Zoo@dshs.texas.gov



DSHS Central Texas

Public Health Region 7 Serving You



How Does Infection Occur?

Adult female flies lay eggs in or near:

- Open wounds
- Surgical sites
- Umbilical cords of newborn animals
- Nose, ears, eyes, or mouth

Eggs hatch within 24 hours, and larvae begin feeding immediately.



What Are the Signs and Symptoms?

- Painful, foul-smelling wounds
- Visible larvae in wounds
- Swelling, redness, tissue damage
- Fever or signs of infection



Why Is Screwworm a Concern?

- Causes rapid tissue destruction
- May cause secondary bacterial infection
- Can lead to death if untreated
- Poses major threat to livestock and wildlife

What Should You Do if You Suspect Screwworm?

1. Don't attempt to remove maggots yourself.
2. Cover the wound to stop flies from laying eggs.
3. Seek medical or veterinary care immediately.
4. Report cases to local health or animal authorities.



Prevention Tips

- Clean and cover all wounds immediately.
- Keep animals free of wounds when possible.
- Check Animals daily for injuries.
- Practice good hygiene and wound care.
- Report suspicious wounds immediately.



Remember...

- Early detection helps prevent spread.
- Cover wounds in regions where NWS cases are present.
- Reporting helps protect the community.