



New World Screwworm Guidance for WI Veterinarians

Best Practices for Evaluation of Animals for NWS and Sample Collection

This guidance document provides best practices when clinically evaluating animals for evidence of a New World Screwworm (NWS) infestation. It also serves as a guide to sample collection, sample submission, and wound treatment.

General Considerations

Suspected NWS cases are required to be reported to the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). Contact your DATCP District Veterinarian. Sample submission to the testing laboratory must be coordinated with DATCP under foreign animal disease protocols.

Inspection

Use appropriate restraint devices to allow for thorough animal inspection. If the animal(s) can't be handled, consider administering sedation. Make note of the animal's overall appearance, state of health, signalment (breed, age, sex), recent history such as travel, etc. Use a light source if needed throughout. Inspect the key areas of the animal's body listed:

Special Equipment and Supplies:

- ☐ Species specific restraint (ex: halter, hog snare, chute, etc.)
- ☐ If maggots (larvae) are found, collection supplies:
 - 70% ethanol/isopropyl alcohol
 - Shatterproof vials with screw top or tight-fitting lids
 - Forceps
- ☐ Light source (flashlight or phone)

Head and Neck

- ☐ Nostrils
- ☐ Eyes, especially around lid margins & medial canthus
- ☐ Ears: canals (may need flashlight or otoscope), pinna
- ☐ Horns or antlers - base, velvet
- ☐ Mouth & under tongue (if possible)

Trunk (thorax and abdomen)

- ☐ Chest, including dewlap, brisket
- ☐ Between folds of skin, under wool or mane

- ☐ Axilla
- ☐ Ventral abdomen
- ☐ Mammary glands, teats
- ☐ Genitalia (e.g. prepuce and urethral fossa, cloaca)
- ☐ Around and under tailhead
- ☐ Anus

Limbs

- ☐ Legs
- ☐ Hooves including coronary bands, between claws/toes, bottom of soles

Areas/conditions needing close inspection – wounds, surgical sites, etc.

- ☐ Umbilicus on newborns
- ☐ Recent castration site
- ☐ Recent docked tail end
- ☐ Recent branding site
- ☐ Recent ear tagging or notching sites
- ☐ Other wounds (animal bites, wire cuts, sunburn, ticks, fly strike, etc.)

Personal Protection

- ☐ Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE); for NWS, at a minimum, use latex or nitrile gloves.
- ☐ Keep open wounds (including cuts and scratches) clean and covered.
- ☐ If you see or feel maggots (larvae) in or on a wound or other area of your body, contact your healthcare provider immediately.

Sampling

1. [Contact your DATCP District Veterinarian](#) regarding the suspected NWS infestation and to coordinate sample submission.
2. Provide a case history to include:
 - Type of host animal, if the animal is alive or dead, and the animal's location. If the animal's current location is the veterinary clinic, provide the owner's address.
 - A description of the wound (maggot presence, wound depth, odor).
 - Movement or travel history.
3. DATCP will prepare and provide a copy of the VS Form 5-38 required for diagnostic submission. DATCP will notify the laboratory of pending sample receipt.
4. If able, take clear pictures of the maggots and wounds but do not delay submitting samples to obtain images.
5. Using forceps, collect maggots of multiple sizes, locations, and depths, focusing on the deepest part of the wound.
6. Place each animal's sample in a separate shatterproof vial labeled with:
 - Owner's Name
 - Animal ID
 - Collection Date
 - Collection Location
7. Fill tube with 70% ethanol/isopropyl alcohol and close securely. Important: Do not use formalin or other liquids. Do not send dry. Make sure alcohol covers the maggots completely.
8. Package the specimens:
 - Place shatterproof vials in a water-tight bag. Add adsorbent material (like paper towels) capable of absorbing the entire liquid contents in case of a spill.
 - Place bag in a second bag and then into a leak-proof shipping container.
 - Include the provided VS Form 5-38 in the shipping container and seal.
9. Ship overnight to the testing lab. DATCP will provide the testing lab name and address. Important: Provide the tracking number and carrier to DATCP.



Treatment

- Treat the myiasis by removing **all** maggots, cleaning and treating wounds, providing supportive care such as analgesia and antibiotics if needed.
- Treat with a systemic NWS animal drug or pesticide following FDA and EPA labeling. Topical treatment may also be needed.
- Treatments must be performed by or under the direct supervision of a veterinarian.
- Kill all eggs, maggots, pupae, and adults that are not submitted to the lab by placing them in 70% ethanol or isopropyl alcohol in a tube and then closing within a sealed container, such as a Ziploc bag, prior to disposal.
- Re-inspect the animal(s) in 24 hours to ensure no live maggots remain. Any additional live maggots should be removed and killed as noted above. Re-treat with topical treatment if indicated.
- Re-inspect as needed until the wound is healed.

FDA/EPA Animal Drug/Pesticide Resources

- [EPA NWS Pesticides](#)
- [FDA NWS Animal Drugs Website](#)
- [FDA Extralabel Use of Animal Drugs](#)
- [FDA-Conditionally Approved and Authorized Animal Drug Options for New World Screwworm](#)

Additional Resources

[NWS FAD PReP website](#)

[APHIS NWS website](#)

[DATCP Home Reporting Animal Diseases](#)

[DATCP Home New World Screwworm \(NWS\)](#)

[Screwworm.gov | Unified Government Response to Protect the United States](#)

[NVAP Training Modules for Accreditation Renewal | APHIS \(Module 41\)](#)

If you suspect an NWS infestation, contact [DATCP Home Reporting Animal Diseases](#) or your DATCP district veterinarian.

This information was compiled from guidance prepared by USDA including “New World Screwworm Best Practices for Evaluation of Animals for NWS,” “Foreign Animal Disease Investigation Guide: New World Screwworm,” and “Standard Operating Procedures for Possible Detections of New World Screwworm in Animals.” Updated July 2026.