

# New World Screwworm Sample Collection Protocols

New World screwworm (NWS) flies, larvae, or maggots are often found in pre-existing wounds or mucous membranes causing NWS myiasis. After observation, if NWS or myiasis is suspected, samples should be collected and submitted for official identification. Suspected cases of NWS and myiasis are reportable to the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC). This guide is provided to aid in the collection and submission of pests for official laboratory identification.

## Supplies

The following is needed for NWS collection:

- Gloves
- 70% alcohol (ethanol or isopryl)
- Forceps
- Screw cap vial or container
- Tape to seal container
- Plastic bag with a zipper closure
- [Parasite Submission Form VS 5-38](#)

## Collection Procedures

- Using forceps, gently remove larvae of different sizes from several sites within the open wound.
  - Ensure samples are removed from the deepest part of the wound, secondary myiasis may be present.
- Place the larvae in the vial or container and ensure it is completely submerged in alcohol. Seal the container and place it in the plastic bag for shipment.

## Submitting Samples

The USDA needs to be informed prior to submitting samples to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL).

- Fill out the Parasite Submission Form VS 5-38 with as much information as possible.
- Contact a TAHC region office or the veterinarian on call, 1-800-550-8242, to receive a FAD# and shipping label.
  - Include the provided FAD# on the Parasite Submission Form in block 31: History or Additional Information.
- Email NVSL, [vs.db.nvsl.dbrl.parasitology@usda.gov](mailto:vs.db.nvsl.dbrl.parasitology@usda.gov), with the subject line: *Suspected Screwworm*.
- Secure samples in proper shipping container and submit to NVSL.

## Additional Information & Resources

- TAHC New World Screwworm webpage: [https://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal\\_health/feverticks-pests/#screwworms](https://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal_health/feverticks-pests/#screwworms)
- USDA Standard Operating Procedure for Possible Detections of New World Screwworm in Dogs: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/sop-detection-of-nws-in-dogs.pdf>
- USDA New World Screwworm Emergency Response page: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-emergencies/nws>



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE  
VETERINARY SERVICES

## PARASITE SUBMISSION FORM

NATIONAL VETERINARY SERVICES LABORATORIES  
1920 Dayton Avenue  
Ames, IA 50010  
Telephone: 515-337-7514

INSTRUCTIONS: Print in pencil or type. Prepare separate form for each species of animal. Form to accompany specimen. Package specimens well to prevent breakage en route.

1. Submitter's Name		2. NVSL Submitter ID	17. Specimen ID	18. Date Collected
3. Business' Name			19. County in which Collected	20. State in which Collected
4. Address			21. Country in which Collected	22. Premises ID
5. City	6. State	7. ZIP Code	23. Latitude	24. Longitude
8. Telephone Number ( <i>Include Area Code</i> )		9. FAX Number	25. Host Origin	
10. Email			26. Host Species ( <i>cow, horse, sheep, dog, etc.</i> )	
11. Owner's Name			27. Where Found on Host ( <i>head, ear, flank, back, etc.</i> )	
12. City	13. State	14. ZIP Code	28. Animal ID	
15. Collector's Name		16. Port	29. Number of Animals in Lot	30. Number of Animals Infested
31. History or Additional Information				

### FOR FIELD LABORATORY USE ONLY (*Optional*)

32. Date Received	33. Date Identified	34. Referral Number
35. Tentative Identification		

Identified by:

### FOR NATIONAL VETERINARY SERVICES LABORATORIES USE ONLY

36. Case Number	37. Sample Number	38. Date Received
39. NVSL Identification		

40. NVSL Accession Number

Identified By:

Date