



State of New Jersey

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MEMO

To: Veterinarians/livestock and domestic pet owners
From: Amar Patil, DVM, MVSc, PhD, Dipl. ACVM, Director, Division of Animal Health/State Veterinarian
Date: June 05, 2026

RE: New World Screwworm (NWS) Presence in US Confirmed; low risk to NJ

On June 03, 2026, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) confirmed identification of NWS in Texas. A veterinarian inspected a 3-week-old beef calf with an umbilical lesion and the presence of larvae. Identification of the NWS larvae was conducted at the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL). The USDA and TX are employing sterile insect technique (SIT) and movement control to prevent further spread. The SIT releases NWS male flies that will not reproduce, a proven tactic in NWS control. The risk of NWS presence in New Jersey is low. Currently, there are no additional New Jersey import requirements for livestock originating in Texas. The New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA) is monitoring the situation in Texas. Additional import requirements for livestock originating in TX may be implemented depending on the risk assessment.

NJDA is asking animal owners to remain vigilant for this pest. If you suspect NWS in your animal, please alert your veterinarian or the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, Division of Animal Health at 609-671-6400.

What to look for in your animals that may be an indication of NWS infestation

- Maggots in wounds or other body openings, such as the nose, ears, genitalia, or navel (in newborn animals).
- Wounds that have a bloody discharge or foul odor.
- Wounds that become deeper and larger as the maggots grow and feed on living tissue.
- Animals that have recently given birth, suffered an injury, or undergone a surgical procedure (such as dehorning or branding) are most vulnerable to attracting NWS.
- An animal had a recent travel history or was rescued from Central American countries or Mexico and has any of the above signs.

Immediately Report Signs of NWS

- If the animal had recent travel history from a Central American country or Mexico and has compatible clinical signs suggestive of NWS, contact your veterinarian and NJDA (609-671-6400) immediately.

Follow State Livestock and Domestic Pet Importation Regulations

- If traveling with your animal or acquiring an animal from out of state, be sure to evaluate the movement requirements for that animal before shipment or travel. At a minimum, a certificate of veterinary inspection is often required, assuring that an accredited and licensed veterinarian has recently evaluated the animal.

Pet Dogs Imported from a Screwworm-Affected Country

- If your pet dog is coming from a country or region **where screwworm is known to exist, it may enter the United States only** if it is accompanied by a certificate signed by a full-time salaried veterinary official (official government veterinarian) of the country or region of origin* stating that:
 - The dog has been inspected for screwworm **within 5 days** before shipment to the United States; and
 - The dog is either free from screwworm OR
 - The dog was infested with screwworm, held in quarantine, and treated until free from screwworm before leaving the region.
- For more information about obtaining a certificate endorsement by an official government veterinarian, contact the Animal Health Competent Authority of the country your pet is traveling from. The Animal Health Competent Authority is the Veterinary Authority or other governmental authority responsible for ensuring the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, including the enforcement of international veterinary certification standards in the country. For additional support in identifying a foreign Animal Health Competent Authority, please visit the links provided on the USDA website: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/pet-travel/another-country-to-us-import/dogs>
- Information about importing dogs or cats into NJ can be found at: <https://www.nj.gov/health/vph/documents/requirements-to-import-dog-cat-into-nj.pdf>

Resources for more Information

- USDA's New World Screwworm Website – www.screwworm.gov
- History of the screwworm in the United States
 - <https://www.nal.usda.gov/exhibits/speccoll/exhibits/show/stop-screwworms--selections-fr/introduction>