

SCREWWORM ERADICATION PROGRAM

~First Screwworm Infestation in Florida in 50 Years~

- The presence of the New World Screwworm was reported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture on October 3, 2016, after samples collected from a wildlife refuge in Big Pine Key in Monroe County were tested and confirmed positive.
 - New World Screwworms are fly larvae (maggots) that can infest livestock and other warm-blooded animals, including people.
 - They most often enter an animal through an open wound and feed on the animal's living flesh. If detected early, animals can be treated and fully recover.
- Florida's endangered Key deer population on Big Pine and No Name keys have already suffered losses due to this infestation. Rapid and thorough response efforts are imperative to save this endangered species and prevent the spread to people and other animals.
- If you suspect your pet is infected with screwworm, please contact your veterinarian. To report a suspected case of screwworm in animals call 1-800-HELP-FLA (1-800-435-7352). Non-Florida residents can call 1-850-410-3800.
- While not common in humans, if you notice a suspicious lesion on your body or suspect you may have contracted screwworms, seek immediate medical attention.
- The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is working aggressively to prevent the spread of screwworm and eradicate this invasive pest. Efforts include surveillance, inspection, trapping, control methods, treatment and public outreach.
- Effective October 3, 2016, FDACS established an animal health inspection zone, including all Florida Keys. Owners traveling northbound with animals must stop at the inspection station, located at Mile Marker 106, for a screwworm assessment.
- For information on the New World Screwworm, including to receive daily updates and learn how to take precautions for yourself and your pets, please visit FreshFromFlorida.com or call 1-800-HELP-FLA (1-800-435-7352). There is also a feature online so people can submit photos of suspected cases of screwworm and have an FDACS veterinarian make an initial assessment.



Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Adam H. Putnam, Commissioner