



New World Screwworm

When is a Wound More Than a Wound?



New World Screwworm (NWS) can be difficult to recognize early. The first sign may be a wound that is not healing.

Signs to watch out for:

- a wound that gets bigger or deeper
- discharge or bleeding
- a foul smell
- swelling or pain
- animals licking, biting, rubbing or shaking the area
- visible maggots or movement in the wound
- irritation around ears, eyes, nose, mouth or genitals
- weakness, fever, depression or reduced appetite in severe cases



Wounds that may be overlooked:

- tick bites
- insect bites
- scratches
- puncture wounds
- surgical sites
- newborn navels
- wounds under hair, feathers, tack or collars



What to do if you suspect NWS:

- Contact a veterinarian promptly.
- Do not transport the animal unnecessarily if it is severely affected.
- Do not ignore maggots in a wound, remove as soon as possible.
- Keep records of travel, origin and recent animal contacts.
- Do not throw live maggots in the garbage or outside. Collect maggots in a small container with a tight fitting lid that contains 70% alcohol. Contact your veterinarian on how to submit a sample to CFIA for identification.



This information is for awareness only and does not replace veterinary advice. Do not wait for a wound to become severe. Early veterinary assessment protects animal welfare and supports early detection.