

# Collection and transportation of screw worm fly maggots in the Northern Territory

Screw-worm fly (SWF) is an insect parasite of warm-blooded animals. The fly has red eyes and a shiny blue-green body and looks similar to Australian blowflies. Flies lay eggs on the edge of open wounds from scratches, injury, branding, dehorning or castration. Larvae (maggots) hatch and feed on the underlying flesh causing extensive tissue damage. Left untreated, animals can die from infection and loss of tissue fluid.

Old world screw worm fly is present throughout south-east Asia and Papua New Guinea and is one of the most serious emergency animal disease threats to the northern livestock industry.

SWF is a notifiable disease in the NT and suspect cases should be reported.

**Call 1800 675 888**

## Collection

To ensure early detection of a screw-worm fly incursion, it is important to check wounds on livestock for maggots. If you find maggots

1. Collect up to 10 larvae from **DEEP** in the wound with forceps. SWF larvae may be difficult to remove and burrow deeper into the wound when disturbed.
2. Collect larvae of different sizes if possible.
3. Drop larvae into **HOT** water for 1 minute. This causes the larvae to extend allowing better identification.
4. Place larvae in either: 10 % formalin; or 70% ethanol; or VINEGAR

## Transport

Drop larvae samples off at your regional livestock biosecurity office.

### Darwin Region

Veterinary Officer  
Berrimah Farm  
Ph: 08 8999 2035 M: 0427 003 600

### Tennant Creek Region

Barkly House  
Livestock Biosecurity Officer  
Ph: 08 8962 4458 M: 0401 113 445

### Katherine Region

Katherine Research Station (KRS)  
Regional Veterinary Officer  
Ph: 08 8973 9716 M: 0437 527 372

### Alice Springs Region

Arid Zone Research Institute (AZRI)  
Field Veterinary Officer  
Ph: 08 8951 8181 M: 0401 118 181

Alternatively send the sample to: Berrimah Veterinary Laboratories  
Makagon Rd  
Berrimah NT 0828  
Ph: (08) 8999 2249

If posting larvae samples please use **VINEGAR** and **post within 10 days of collection** as formalin and alcohol have postage restrictions.

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**SCREW WORM FLY  
FREEDOM ASSURANCE  
PROGRAM**



**Advice sheet for suspect Screw Worm Fly strike of stock**

<b>Date sample collected</b>	/ /	Ref No (Lab use only)	
<b>Owner of Animals:</b>			
<b>Address of Animals:</b>  (location of the animals when sampled)			
<b>Property Identification Code (PIC):</b>	T		
<b>Owner Contact Details:</b>	Phone:	Mobile:	
	Fax:		
	Email:		
<b>Submitter's Name:</b>			
<b>Submitter's Address:</b>			
<b>Contact Details:</b>	Phone:	Mobile:	
	Fax:		
	Email:		

**Details of herd or mob with struck animals**

Number of struck animals		Total No in herd/mob			
Is the mob in transit?	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Origin?:			
Date fly strike first suspected	/ /	Comments:			
Description of Habitat (circle appropriate type)	Forest	Grassland	Scrub	Marshland	Riverine
	Other (Describe)				

**Please turn over and complete strike details**

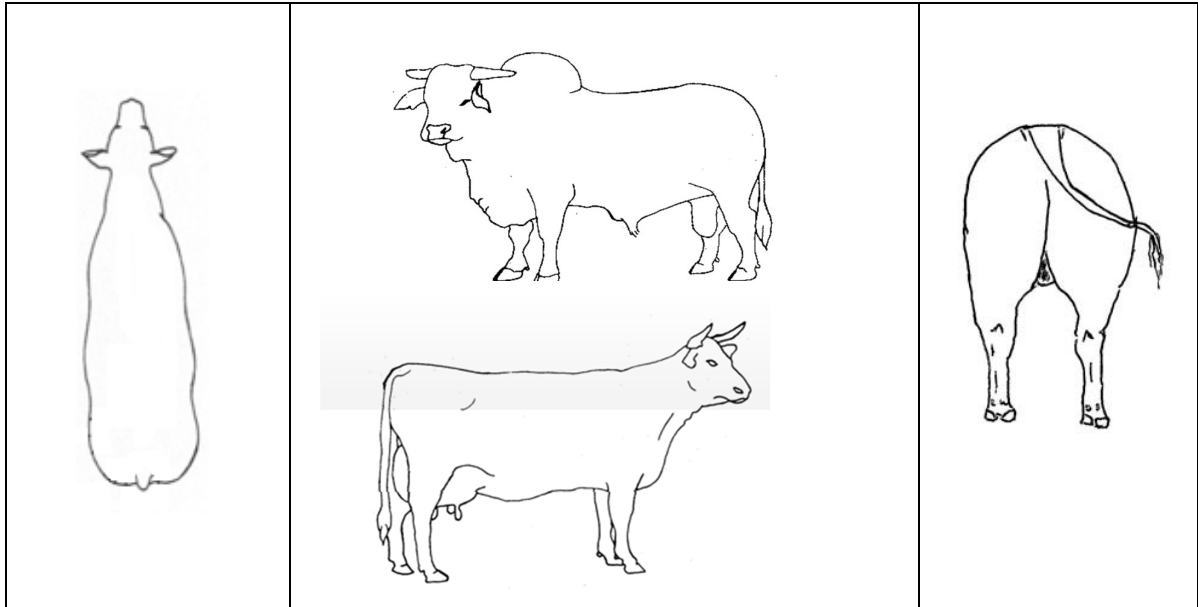
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### Details of Struck Animal

(separate form to be completed for each animal)

Sex		Age	
Breed			

Mark location of wound on animal (x = small wound; O = large wound)



### Predisposing factors for suspect strike wound

Surgical wound	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fight wounds	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dehorning wound	<input type="checkbox"/>	Biting Fly wounds	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stake wound	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tick infestation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Body orifice strike	<input type="checkbox"/>	Skin irritation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not known	<input type="checkbox"/>	Predation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (Describe):	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Use the Larval submission pack or any approved transport packaging to forward samples promptly to the State Department of Agriculture laboratory for your area.

**Screw worm fly is a notifiable disease in all Australian States, please notify the relevant Chief Veterinary Officer for your area by calling the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline 1800 675 888. For further information, go to: [www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/what-we-do/disease-surveillance/screw-worm-fly/](http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/what-we-do/disease-surveillance/screw-worm-fly/)**