



## **SAMPLE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (SOP)**

### **New World Screwworm (NWS) Prevention & Control for Animal Transport**

#### **Purpose**

Prevent spread of New World Screwworm (NWS) during animal transport while maintaining safe, humane operations.

#### **Scope**

Applies to all dogs and cats transported through animal relocation programs, with specific responsibilities for source shelters, transport teams, and destination shelters.

#### **Regulatory Compliance and Oversight**

In response to the public health and safety concerns posed by NWS, states are actively responding with emergency regulations and transport orders that are updated on a daily basis. Shelters relocating animals must first check the specific orders of both their origin state and their destination state to ensure full compliance. In addition to these state-level mandates, shelters must adhere to all applicable USDA APHIS requirements regarding the prevention, management, and reporting of NWS. The responsibilities outlined in this document are intended to support shelters in meeting these complex, often rapidly changing regulatory obligations and to help prevent the spread.

#### **Responsibilities**

The current status of NWS, including the latest news and detection updates, can be found on the [APHIS dashboard](#). Specific important requirements and restrictions are set by the destination state: these may change rapidly and it is critical to ensure staff are knowledgeable of and adhering to current requirements.

- Regular examination of animals at each step of the transport process is critical for detection of NWS. Shelters should ensure their staff and volunteers familiarize themselves with the current recommendations for prevention and management of NWS in shelter dogs and cats as well as professional guidelines and responsibilities put forward by USDA APHIS and other regulatory entities:
  - [Humane Prevention and Management of NWS in Shelter and Rescue Dogs and Cats](#)
  - [Standard Operating Procedure for Possible Detections of New World Screwworm in Animals](#)



Screwworm infestation is most often associated with the presence of a pre-existing wound but may also be found in mucous membranes or ears. Any wounds should be examined for the presence of larval flies and maggots.

When examining animals, examiners should pay special attention to body openings and areas where the larva might hide:

- Nostrils, eyes and ears
- In skin folds, axilla (armpit), under tailhead
- Genitalia (e.g. prepuce and vulva)
- Recent surgical sites
- Umbilicus on newborns

If eggs or maggots are identified on exam, immediately notify the shelter's veterinarian and ensure findings are noted in animal's medical record. Do not transport these animals except locally for a veterinary examination. **NWS is a federally reportable foreign animal disease.** The examining veterinarian or animal health official should contact the [State Animal Health official](#) and/or the [Area Veterinarian in Charge](#) if they suspect NWS infestation.

*Source Shelter:*

- Routinely review state regulations for both source and destination states to stay informed of and compliant with evolving requirements.
- Regularly monitor animals for maggots in wounds or body openings, foul odor or smell of decay, a wound that enlarges quickly, or signs of pain - irritated behavior, depression, not eating, and isolating themselves. Report any abnormalities to the shelter's veterinarian.
- Administer an appropriate parasite preventive on intake to all animals being transported from states with an elevated risk for NWS. This includes states with designated infested zones, states adjacent to those with designated infested zones, or those at greater risk due to geographic proximity to the US-Mexico border. Continue treatments throughout the animal's stay in the shelter and foster care, as directed by the supervising veterinarian, product instructions, and – if applicable – conditional use or emergency use authorization letters.
  - Be sure to check each state's individual requirements.
  - Some states may require application of the parasite treatment to have been performed by a licensed and/or accredited veterinarian for the animal to be eligible for importation. They may also require application of specific medication based on the [FDA's current list of products with conditional approval or emergency use authorizations for NWS](#).
  - Some states may require that application of the parasite treatment start by a certain time before entry into that state (e.g., 48-72 hours before entry).
- Trained shelter staff perform complete hands-on exam of animals within 24 hours of transport.
- Veterinarian performs a thorough, hands-on physical exam of animals to be transported and completes a certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI) within required time frame dictated



by local regulations, including completing any required NWS statement or addendum to approve animals for transport.

*Transport Team:*

- Conduct animal exams prior to transport and adhere to sanitation procedures.
  - If eggs or larvae (maggots) are seen on animal, remove animal from list of animals eligible for transport, notify supervisors at the source shelter and transport program (if separate), and adhere to local, state, and federal reporting requirements.
- Animals with hair loss, wounds or signs of skin infection/inflammation (dermatitis) are generally ineligible for transport, unless such conditions have been previously identified, cleared for transport by a veterinarian with consideration of all applicable requirements and regulations, and expressly shared with and approved by the receiving shelter.
  - Animals with healing surgical sites will generally be allowed on transport provided a sufficient recovery time has elapsed, an appropriate preventive product was applied upon intake, and the animal has been examined and found to be free of evidence of NWS.

*Receiving Shelter:*

- Conduct intake exams on arriving animals and monitor animal health as usual.
- If maggots are identified on an animal from an elevated risk area:
  - Immediately notify your veterinarian.
  - Adhere to local, state, and federal reporting requirements; many states have also implemented additional reporting procedures if any evidence of NWS is detected. Partners must ensure they are familiar with and are adhering to current regulations.
  - Inform the source shelter and, if applicable, transport provider.

***This document was last edited on June 26, 2026.***