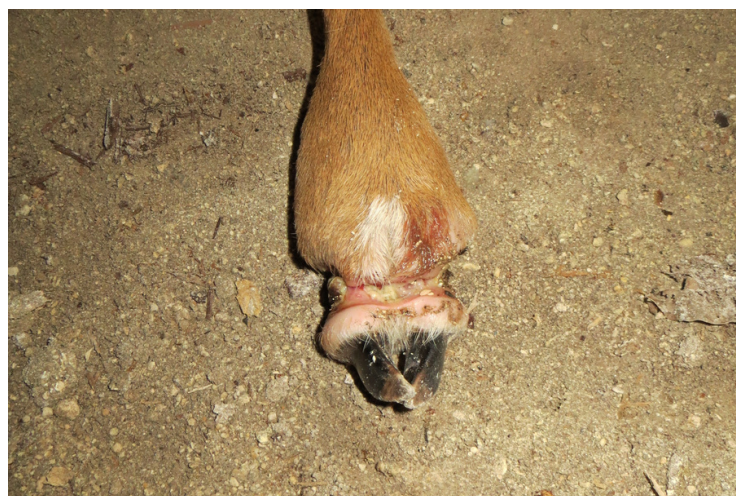


NEW WORLD SCREWORM: WHAT IS IT?

New World screwworms (NWS) are the maggots of an invasive fly that lays eggs in open wounds, genitalia, nostrils, eyes or mouths of live warm-blooded animals.

These eggs hatch into parasitic larvae (maggots) that only feed on living tissue, unlike other fly larvae that prefer dead tissue. NWS larvae burrow or “screw” into the flesh of live animals, using their sharp mouth hooks that give them a screw-like appearance. NWS can infest livestock, pets, wildlife, occasionally birds, and in rare cases, people. Infested wounds quickly become infected and, if left untreated, will kill the animal.

New World screwworm has been found in the U.S., but has not been found in Georgia. State and Federal agencies are collaborating to halt this spread and to protect wildlife, domestic animals, and people from NWS.



If you suspect an animal has been infected with NWS, immediately notify your region biologist at GeorgiaWildlife.com/about/contact or WildlifeHealth@dnr.ga.gov

WHAT SHOULD I LOOK FOR?

- Look for larvae (maggots) on live or dead animals
- Larvae (maggots) in wounds or other body openings, such as the base of antlers, nose, ears, genitalia, and the belly button of newborn animals
- Wounds that have bloody discharge and foul odor
- Animals that seem to be in pain, shaking their head, or aggravated
- NWS can infect humans, but it is very rare. More information on NWS can be found through the [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov).



WHAT KIND OF WILDLIFE ARE COMMONLY AFFECTED?

While all warm-blooded animals can be infested with NWS, white-tailed deer, rabbits, small mammals and turkeys are wildlife species that are more commonly affected.



WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I SUSPECT AN ANIMAL HAS NEW WORLD SCREWORM?

- Call your regional office on our [contact information](#) page as soon as possible or email WildlifeHealth@dnr.ga.gov.
- Immediately wash your hands and gear with soap and water.
- Record the location (using GPS if possible).
- Take photos of the wounds and larvae if possible.
- DO NOT handle or transport the animal, leave it where it is.