



See It, Collect It, Report It

New World Screwworm (NWS) Protocols

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- (2) Shatterproof vials or containers with tight-fitting lids
- Forceps (for handling larva(e))
- Protective gloves
- 70% ethanol or isopropyl alcohol (rubbing alcohol)
- Sealable plastic bag (e.g., Ziploc or specimen transport bag)

Collecting Screwworm Safely

1. Use forceps to remove larva(e) from wounds.
2. Place larva(e) in a vial filled with 70% ethanol or isopropyl alcohol.
3. Ensure larva(e) are completely submerged and seal the vial or container tightly.
4. If adult flies are present, place them in a separate dry vial (no alcohol) and seal tightly.
5. Place all vials into a sealed plastic bag to prevent spillage.
6. Keep paperwork in a separate sealed bag, away from the samples.



Secure, Seal, Send off to the Lab!

1. Contact the MDA Frederick Animal Health Laboratory before delivering samples.
2. Complete the Parasite Submission Form v 5-38
3. Drop off samples promptly to ensure proper analysis.



image source: APHIS

If screwworms are suspected: Contact the Maryland State Veterinarian immediately

Office: (410) 841-5810

After Hours: (410) 841-5971

Frederick Animal Health Laboratory: (301) 600-1548

AnimalHealth.mda@maryland.gov



image source: APHIS

Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). New World Screwworm: Be Aware and Prepare [Poster]. APHIS-25-028. April 2025. <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/cattle/ticks/screwworm>

Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC). New World Screwworm Sample Collection Protocol [Emergency Management Guide]. Texas Animal Health Commission. (Year not specified in the PDF; accessed April 2025).
Comisión Panamá-Estados Unidos para la Erradicación y Prevención del Gusano Barrenador del Ganado (COPEG). Screwworm (GBG): Myiasis and Life Cycle [Infographic/Poster]. COPEG website. Published May 28, 2025.
Accessed August 28, 2025