



# GOT MAGGOTS?

THINK SCREW-WORM FLY!

**Maggot collection kit**



SEND TO YOUR LOCAL AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

## AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT SCREW-WORM FLY

Screw-worm fly (SWF) is an insect pest of warm blooded animals (including people, wildlife and livestock). The fly lays eggs on wounds or moist body openings – the eggs then hatch to become aggressive flesh eating maggots.

SWF is widespread through tropical regions, including some of Australia's close neighbours – Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. The pest is most likely to enter through the Torres Strait or with returning livestock export vessels. Travellers returning from countries where the pest is endemic may also be infected.

Establishment of SWF in Australia would have major negative impacts on northern livestock production, livestock export trade and public health.

Keeping Australia SWF free relies upon early detection, containment and eradication before it can spread to other areas. Regular sampling and laboratory examination of maggots from infested wounds anywhere in Australia is key to early detection.

If you see an animal with maggots in a wound please support surveillance by sending maggots to your government laboratory. Enclosed in this kit are instructions and equipment for collecting maggots. Maintaining a fully stocked collection kit is important and you should contact your government officer if you need additional supplies

Should you require further information or wish to discuss this further, please contact:

### **Queensland**

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries                      13 25 23

### **Northern Territory**

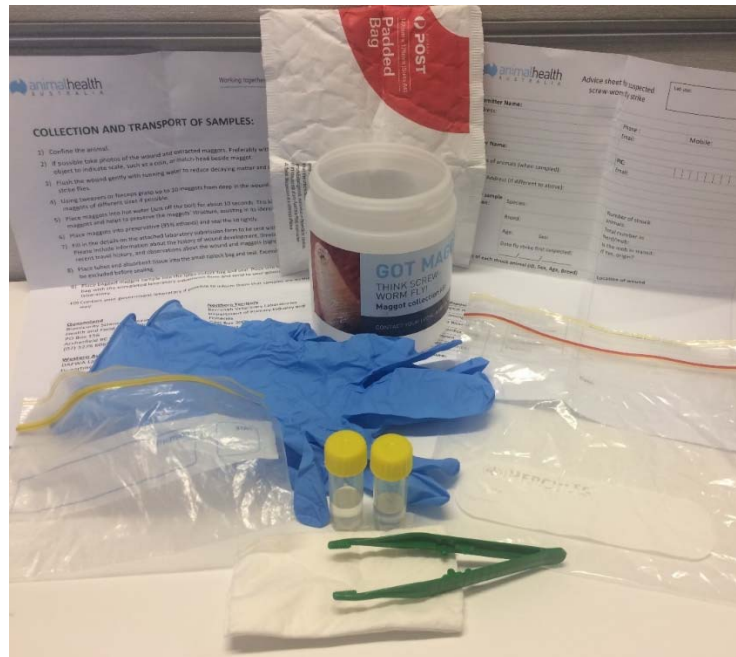
Department of Primary Industry and                      (08) 8951 8181  
Resources

### **Western Australia**

Department of Food and Agriculture                      (08) 9368 3333

## COLLECTION AND TRANSPORT OF SAMPLES

- 1) Confine the animal.
- 2) If possible, take photos of the wound and extracted maggots. Preferably with a reference object to indicate scale, such as a coin, or match-head beside maggot.
- 3) Flush the wound gently with running water to reduce decaying matter and secondary strike flies.
- 4) Using tweezers or forceps grasp up to 10 maggots from deep in the wound. Collect maggots of different sizes if possible.
- 5) Place maggots into hot water (just off the boil) for about 10 seconds. This kills the maggots and helps to preserve the maggots' structure, assisting in its identification.
- 6) Place maggots into preservative (95% ethanol) and seal the lid tightly.
- 7) Fill in the details on the attached laboratory submission form to be sent with the sample. Please include information about the history of wound development, timeline, animal's recent travel history and observations about the wound and maggots (sight and smell).
- 8) Place tubes and absorbent tissue into the small ziplock bag, exclude excessive air and seal.
- 9) Place bagged maggot sample into the large ziplock bag and seal. Place into the mailing bag with the completed laboratory submission form.
- 10) Send by postal mail to your government laboratory at the address below.
- 11) Contact your government laboratory, if possible, to inform them that samples are on the way.



### **Northern Territory**

Berrimah Veterinary  
Laboratories  
Department of Primary Industry  
and Resources  
Reply Paid 83108  
Darwin NT 0801  
(08) 8999 2249

### **Queensland**

Biosecurity Sciences Laboratory  
Health and Food Science  
Precinct  
Reply Paid 87088156  
Archerfield BC QLD 4108  
(07) 3708 8762

### **Western Australia**

DAFWA Laboratories  
Department of Agriculture and  
Food WA  
Reply Paid 85028  
South Perth WA 6151  
(08) 9368 3351