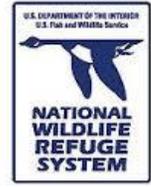


Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Florida Keys National
Wildlife Refuge Complex
179 Key Deer Blvd
Big Pine Key, FL 33043

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Veterinarians Begin Care for Key Deer with Screwworm

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) veterinarians are caring for wounded endangered Key deer infested with screwworm in an effort to increase their chances of survival. The option of providing wound care in the field for some deer with minor screwworm infestations is an exciting step in getting the hard-hit population through the screwworm outbreak.

Wound care began on October 25, 2016. To date, Service veterinarians have attempted treatment on six Key deer, one had to be euthanized as a result of severe infestation.

The public may report suspected screwworm infestations in Key deer by calling the Key Deer Hotline (888-404-3922 ext. 7). If the infestation is mild, trained wildlife veterinarians will attempt treatment. Veterinarians sedate the deer, care for the wound, and give antibiotics and fluids. Treated deer are functioning normally within 30 minutes of receiving care.

To determine effectiveness, the veterinarians will monitor each treated deer. Treated deer have a yellow plastic tag on one antler and a number shaved into the fur for future monitoring.

For more information, please contact Kevin Lowry, Chief Public Information Officer, National Key Deer Refuge, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, 305-872-2239 ext. 229, USFWSscrewworminfo@gmail.com and follow Refuge updates on our website and Facebook page: www.fws.gov/refuge/National_Key_Deer_Refuge/ www.facebook.com/floridakeysrefuges

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The National Wildlife Refuge System protects wildlife and wildlife habitat on more than 150 million acres of land and water from the Caribbean to the Pacific, Maine to Alaska. Refuges also improve human health, provide outdoor recreation, and support local economies. Visit our home page at <http://www.fws.gov/refuges/>.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit <http://www.fws.gov/>.