



U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Key Deer Refuge

Screwworm Incident Information

November 3, 2016

Information Office, 305-872-2239 ext. 229

Hours of Operation: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

USFWSScrewwormInfo@gmail.com

https://www.fws.gov/refuge/National_Key_Deer_Refuge/

<https://www.facebook.com/floridakeysrefuges/>

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| Current Status | <p>Since the presence of New World Screwworm was confirmed on National Key Deer Refuge, on September 30, 2016, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has made efforts to protect endangered Key deer and other wildlife from infestation. The response effort from the Service has been to locate infested deer and administer medication, treat mild and moderate wounds by trained wildlife veterinarians, or euthanize deer as appropriate. In advanced cases, the most humane decision is to euthanize for the animal's welfare and protect the remaining healthy deer and other wildlife. On October 20, Service personnel and trained Refuge volunteers began administering Doramectin, an anti-parasitic medicine to treat Key deer as a preventative measure. Texas A&M researchers began surveying the Key deer population and Service biologists will make decisions about the next courses of action based on the population status.</p> |
| Planned Events | <p>Service biologists and the large team of more than 170 volunteers will continue to administer doses of medication to Key deer within the urban environments. An attempt is made to give every deer encountered a dose of the anti-parasitic, Doramectin once per week as a preventative treatment. As a last resort effort, the Service is constructing temporary enclosures where healthy wild Key deer would have a safe place to be treated. If the need arises, this population could be protected by receiving advanced veterinary care to save a subset of the population to prevent extinction of the subspecies. The temporary enclosures will be built on Big Pine Key and Cudjoe Key and remain open and unused unless absolutely required. The public is advised to stay away from the temporary enclosures to minimize human interactions with any wildlife in the vicinity and prevent contamination.</p> |
| Key Deer Information | <p>Number of doses administered to Key deer: 1039</p> <p>Number of Key deer euthanized or deceased from screwworm infestation: 127</p> |

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| How can I help? | Volunteer to treat Key deer | E-Mail Keydeer@fws.gov |
| | Report symptoms or infestations in deer | Key Deer Hotline: 888-404-3922 ext. 7 |
| | <p>Please report any deer with the following symptoms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flies buzzing around the deer • Irritated behavior, head shaking • Smell of decay if animal is infested | |
| New World Screwworm Information | <p>Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services</p> <p>1-800-HELP-FLA (1-800-435-7352)</p> <p>http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Animal-Industry/Consumer-Resources/Reportable-Animal-Diseases/New-World-Screwworm</p> | |