



# U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service - National Key Deer Refuge Screwworm Incident Information

**December 4, 2016**

**Information Office, 305-906-1355**

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.fws.gov/refuge/National_Key_Deer_Refuge/)

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

<p><b>Current Status</b></p>	<p>Since the presence of New World Screwworm was identified 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.</p>	
<p><b>Events</b></p>	<p>Service biologists and a team of trained volunteers continue to administer oral doses of the anti-parasitic medication Doramectin to Key deer in four designated Zones. Twenty-seven self-medication stations have also been erected in backcountry areas inaccessible to Service staff and volunteers. The public is reminded that feeding endangered Key deer may compromise their health and is illegal.</p> <p>Trail cameras are being monitored to assess Key deer health and infestation status. Staff are building a temporary enclosure on Big Pine Key that may be used to maintain a subset of the Key deer population to prevent extinction of the subspecies. The enclosure will remain open and unused unless required. The temporary enclosure should be avoided by the public to minimize human interactions with any wildlife in the vicinity and prevent contamination.</p> <p>The eradication program consists of the following: release of sterile screwworm flies and surveillance; an animal health checkpoint to ensure screwworm does not leave the Keys on pets or other animals; Key deer monitoring and response; and community outreach.</p>	
<p><b>Key Deer Information</b></p>	<p><b>Total number of doses administered to Key deer: 6,282</b>  <b>(Total self-medication station doses: 3,480 Total oral medication doses: 2,802</b>  <b>Number of Key deer euthanized or deceased from screwworm infestation: 132</b>  <i>*The last Key deer death due to screwworm was on November 14, 2016. As Key deer mortality continues from vehicle strikes, drivers are urged to observe speed limits, refrain from using phone while driving, and to stay alert for Key deer on roadsides.</i></p>	
<p><b>How can I help?</b></p>	<p>Volunteer to treat Key deer</p>	<p><b>E-Mail: <a href="mailto:Keydeer@fws.gov">Keydeer@fws.gov</a></b></p>
	<p>Report symptoms or infestations in deer</p>	<p><b>Key Deer Hotline: 888-404-3922 ext. 7</b></p>
	<p><b>Please report any deer with the following symptoms:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Flies buzzing around the deer</b></li> <li>• <b>Irritated behavior, head shaking</b></li> <li>• <b>Smell of decay if animal is infested</b></li> </ul>	
<p><b>New World Screwworm Information</b></p>	<p>Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  1-800-HELP-FLA (1-800-435-7352)  <a href="http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Animal-Industry/Consumer-Resources/Reportable-Animal-Diseases/New-World-Screwworm">http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Animal-Industry/Consumer-Resources/Reportable-Animal-Diseases/New-World-Screwworm</a></p>	

