

**ZOOLOGICAL PATHOLOGY PROGRAM
STRANDED CETACEAN NECROPSY REPORT**

Field ID: 04IMMS011611
Additional Identifier:
ZPP Accession Number: 11-16Tt
Species: *Tursiops truncatus*
Strand Date: 01-16-11
Strand Location: Dauphin Island, AL
Sex: female
Age Class: fetus
Necropsy Date: 01-17-11
Condition code: 3
Total Length: 94 cm
Weight:
Blubber Depth:
Body Condition:

Gross Necropsy: (no data available at time of report)

Slides/Tissues Received: 11 regular slides

Microscopic Findings: Vessels in all tissues have few to large numbers of large (postmortem) bacilli.

Slide 1:

Skin, rostrum: No significant findings (NSF)

Slide 2:

Lymph node: NSF

Lung: Diffusely alveolar spaces are not expanded (fetal atelectasis). Throughout the lung, many alveoli and small caliber bronchioles contain few to moderate numbers of amniotic squames and low to moderate numbers of macrophages and lesser neutrophils. Few also contain scant meconium and or dense eosinophilic globular to linear proteinic material.

Slide 3:

Spleen and kidney: NSF

Slide 4:

Tongue and esophagus: NSF

Slide 5:

Penis, trachea, pulmonary artery: NSF

Slide 6:

Skeletal muscle, non-glandular (1st chamber) stomach: NSF

Slide 7:

Fundic stomach, urinary bladder, testis: NSF

Slide 8:

Heart, large vessel (aorta): NSF

Slide 9:

Heart: NSF

Slide 10:

Skin with blubber: NSF

Slide 11:

Bone with marrow: NSF

Final Diagnosis:

1. Moderate, diffuse, histiocytic and suppurative pneumonia with intra-alveolar squames and meconium

Comments:

As alveoli were uninflated, this animal never breathed and was thus a fetus at time of death. Low total length, at 94 cm, was also consistent with a fetus. Abundant intra-alveolar squames and occasional meconium indicated in-utero fetal distress. The high level of inflammatory cells was greater than expected for response to squames and meconium and an additional important differential was Brucella infection, particularly given recent findings in other fetuses from the UME (Louisiana portion).

Reported By:

Michael J. Kinsel DVM, Dip ACVP
August 30, 2011