

**ZOOLOGICAL PATHOLOGY PROGRAM
STRANDED CETACEAN NECROPSY REPORT**

Field ID: 32IMMS022311
Additional Identifier:
ZPP Accession Number: 11-025Tt
Species: *Tursiops truncatus*
Strand Date: 02-23-11
Strand Location: Dauphin Island, AL
Sex: male
Age Class: fetus
Necropsy Date: 02-24-11
Condition code: 3
Total Length: 96 cm
Weight: approx. 9.02 kg
Blubber Depth: 1.1 cm dorsal
Body Condition:

Gross Necropsy: On file

Slides/Tissues Received: 5 regular slides.

Microscopic Findings: Extensive autolysis and widespread colonization by postmortem bacteria.

Slide 1:

Skeletal muscle and kidney: No significant findings (NSF)

Slide 2:

Spinal cord and trachea: NSF

Lung: Diffusely the lung is atelectatic. Most alveoli contain few to frequently large numbers of amniotic squames and or small quantities of meconium. Lesser numbers of alveoli contain low to moderate numbers of neutrophils and lesser macrophages.

Slide 3:

Heart: NSF

Slide 4:

Heart: NSF

Slide 5:

Heart and Aorta: NSF

Final Diagnoses:

1. Fetal atelectasis
2. Mild to moderate, multifocal suppurative and histiocytic pneumonia
3. Moderate intra-alveolar squames and meconium
4. Subcutaneous hemorrhage, mandible (gross diagnosis)

Comments:

Taken together, the gross and histologic findings were consistent with in utero infection, fetal distress and subsequent spontaneous abortion of a still-live fetus with resultant trauma during abortion. This animal was not full term, based on a 96 cm total length.

The lungs sank grossly, and atelectasis was noted histologically, indicating this animal never breathed air. Subcutaneous hemorrhage and skull fractures noted grossly indicated trauma occurred while this animal was still alive. A differential to trauma during abortion was in utero trauma.

Fetal distress, whether in utero or during abortion, was evidenced by high numbers of intrapulmonary amniotic squames and meconium.

The character and severity of pulmonary inflammation indicated it had been present at least for one to several days prior to abortion.

Reported By:

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