

**ZOOLOGICAL PATHOLOGY PROGRAM
STRANDED CETACEAN NECROPSY REPORT**

Field ID: 33IMMS022411
Additional Identifier:
ZPP Accession Number: 11-026Tt
Species: *Tursiops truncatus*
Strand Date: 02-24-11
Strand Location: Pascagoula, MS
Sex: female
Age Class: fetus
Necropsy Date: 02-25-11
Condition code: 3
Total Length: 97 cm
Weight: approx. 9.36 kg
Blubber Depth: 1.7 cm dorsal
Body Condition:

Gross Necropsy: On file; important gross lesions included subcutaneous hemorrhage along the mandible and overlying the cranium.

Slides/Tissues Received: 5 regular slides.

Microscopic Findings: Autolysis is severe, impeding interpretation; also widespread colonization by postmortem bacteria.

Slide 1:

Kidney: No significant findings (NSF)

Lung: Diffusely alveoli are atelectatic. Most bronchioles and alveoli are filled with round cells (leukocytes) with few cells recognizable as neutrophils. Scattered about in bronchioles and alveoli are few amniotic squames.

Slide 2:

Esophagus and great vessel (aorta or pulmonary artery): NSF

Slide 3:

Trachea great vessel and adjacent lymph node: NSF

Slide 4:

Heart: NSF

Slide 5:

Heart: NSF

Final Diagnoses:

1. Fetal atelectasis
2. Moderate suppurative pneumonia
3. Few intra-alveolar squames
4. Subcutaneous hemorrhage, mandible (gross diagnosis)

Comments:

Taken together, the gross and histologic findings were consistent with in utero pulmonary inflammation, subsequent spontaneous abortion of a still-live fetus with resultant trauma during abortion. This animal was not full term, based on a 97 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 much less likely differential to trauma during abortion was in utero trauma.

While autolysis obscured the identity of some bronchiolar and alveolar cells, some were clearly identified as neutrophils, and cellularity was greatly increased over normal fetal lung, indicative of pneumonia.

Reported By:

Michael J. Kinsel DVM, Dip ACVP
September 07, 2011