

**ZOOLOGICAL PATHOLOGY PROGRAM
STRANDED CETACEAN NECROPSY REPORT**

Field ID: 34IMMS022511
Additional Identifier:
ZPP Accession Number: 11-027Tt
Species: *Tursiops truncatus*
Strand Date: 02-25-11
Strand Location: Long Beach, MS
Sex: female
Age Class: pup/calf
Necropsy Date: 02-25-11
Condition code: 3
Total Length: 111.4 cm
Weight: 9 kg
Blubber Depth:
Body Condition:

Gross Necropsy: Report available. Bruising of neck and hemothorax were among the findings.

Slides/Tissues Received: 4 regular slides.

Microscopic Findings: Autolysis is severe, impeding interpretation; also widespread colonization by postmortem bacteria. The lung also contains many 3-4 micron ovoid organisms (yeasts).

Slide 1:

Kidney: No significant findings (NSF)

Aorta: NSF

Slide 2:

Lung: Diffusely alveoli are atelectatic. Conducting airways are open/air filled. There are a few recognizable intra-alveolar amniotic squames. Additionally, alveoli contain increased numbers of cells. Autolysis impedes evaluation but at least a portion are inflammatory cells.

Heart: NSF

Slide 3:

Heart: NSF

Slide 4:

Heart: NSF

Final Diagnoses:

1. Perinatal death (see comment)
2. Pulmonary atelectasis and intra-alveolar squames
3. Pneumonia

Comments:

Alveoli were largely collapsed histologically though conducting airways contained some air. Lungs were reported to float in water at necropsy. Some air could have been inhaled by this individual, though given the extent of autolysis this was not extensive and certainly did not adequately expand/ventilate the lung. Few brief breathing attempts followed immediately by death was plausible (perinatal death). At 111.4 cm total length this animal was term or near term birth, further supporting the possibility of perinatal death. The number of recognizable amniotic squames was low but may still have been reflective of some level of fetal distress, particularly given evidence of pneumonia.

The pneumonia existed in utero and was reflective of inflammation and likely infection of the amniotic fluid. Similar findings have been noted in other submitted fetuses/stillbirths.

Hemorrhage noted grossly was consistent with birth trauma, especially given perinatal death.

Reported By:

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