

**ZOOLOGICAL PATHOLOGY PROGRAM
STRANDED CETACEAN NECROPSY REPORT**

Field ID: 51IMMS030711
Additional Identifier:
ZPP Accession Number: 11-41Tt
Species: *Tursiops truncatus*
Strand Date: 03/07/11
Strand Location: Waveland, Mississippi
Sex: unknown
Age Class: calf
Necropsy Date:
Condition code: 3
Total Length: 100 cm
Weight: 6.8 kg
Blubber Depth: 0.6 cm dorsal
Body Condition:

Gross Necropsy: Gross report on file.

Gross necropsy findings include (from report):

Lungs: Atelectatic, brick red color. Both sides sunk in water. No parasites observed.

Axial Skeleton: The skull was fractured in 2 places on the right dorsal side. This was not at the suture lines. The brain was pink and liquified.

Slides/Tissues Received: 2 regular slides.

Microscopic Findings:

Slide 1:

Thymus: Lobules are small. There is marked autolysis

Lung: There is marked atelectasis. Bronchioles and alveolar spaces contain increased numbers of cells and several squamous cells can be visualized.

Slide 2:

Skin: Throughout the superficial dermis there are small numbers of primarily perivascular, neutrophils, macrophages, and scattered karyorhectic debris.

Final Diagnoses:

1. Lung: Marked diffuse atelectasis and pneumonia with aspirated amniotic squamous cells
2. Skin: Mild neutrophilic and histiocytic perivascular dermatitis

3. Thymus: Depletion

Ancillary Test Results: None available at time of report

Comments:

Though there was marked autolysis in the lung section submitted, diffuse atelectasis was evident. This indicates that this fetus did not breathe following birth and was therefore still born. Also there was increased cellularity including increased number of amniotic squamous cells. Increased cellularity is indicative of inflammation and pneumonia although autolysis hindered more exact determination of the character of the inflammation. These findings are consistent with infection of the amniotic fluid in utero and a fetal stress response. When stressed, either in utero or during the birthing process, fetuses can aspirate abnormally large amounts of amniotic fluid containing amniotic squamous cells. If the amniotic fluid is infected, an inflammatory reaction will occur in the fetus in utero, such as the case in this dolphin. Analysis of lung for *Brucella* sp. infection via PCR is recommended.

The inflammation in the skin is consistent with systemic infection or infection of the amniotic fluid in utero. Thymic depletion may be related to infection.

Reported By:

Kathleen M. Colegrove-Calvey DVM, PhD, Dip ACVP
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