

**ZOOLOGICAL PATHOLOGY PROGRAM
STRANDED CETACEAN NECROPSY REPORT**

Field ID: MRB20110315-LA001
Additional Identifier: LA 470
ZPP Accession Number: 11-06Tt
Species: *Tursiops truncatus*
Strand Date: 3/14/2011
Strand Location: Chaland Beach, LA
Sex: F
Age Class: neonate
Necropsy Date: 3/15/2011
Condition code: 2
Total Length: 111.5 cm
Weight:
Blubber Depth: 1.0 cm dorsal
Body Condition:

Gross Necropsy: Report on file

Slides/Tissues Received: 18 regular, 1 large slide

Microscopic Findings:

Slide 1:

Heart: There is no epicardial adipose tissue

Slide 2:

Thymus: No significant findings (NSF)

Liver: Hepatocytes diffusely contain one to several moderately sized clear cytoplasmic vacuoles. There are a few very small aggregates of myeloid precursors in sinuses (extramedullary hematopoiesis).

Spleen: There are no lymphoid follicles in the white pulp. Red pulp contains moderate numbers of erythroid and myeloid precursors and megakaryocytes (extramedullary hematopoiesis)

Slide 3:

Kidney: NSF

Thyroid gland: NSF

Slide 4:

Lung: Small numbers of alveolar spaces contain few to moderate numbers of amniotic squamous cells and rarely small amounts of brown debris. Some alveolar spaces contain small amounts of fibrillar eosinophilic fluid.

Thyroid gland: NSF

Adrenal gland: NSF

Slide 5:

Skin: NSF

Slide 6:

Trachea: NSF

Esophagus: NSF

Diaphragm: NSF

Aorta: NSF

Slide 7:

Small intestine: NSF

Colon: The lumen contains moderate amounts of golden brown material (meconium).

Umbilical vein: NSF

Slide 8:

Colon: The lumen contains small amounts of golden brown material (meconium).

Mesenteric lymph node: NSF

Tonsil: NSF

Slide 9:

Urinary bladder/Umbilical arteries: NSF

Slide 10:

Umbilicus: NSF

Slide 11:

Uterus: NSF

Cervix: NSF

Slide 12:

Skeletal muscle: NSF

Slide 13:

Spinal cord: NSF

Medulla: NSF

Slides 14 - 18:

Brain (cerebrum, cerebellum): NSF

Slide 19:

Eye: NSF

Final Diagnosis:

Open

Ancillary Test Results:

Microbiology results on file. Multiple bacteria were cultured from the brain and lung including Clostridia sp..

Comments:

Cause of death was not apparent in the tissues submitted for histopathology. The appearance of the lungs both histologically and grossly indicates that this neonate at least partially inflated its lungs and breathed after birth, however, determining how long the neonate may have been alive after birth is impossible histologically. There was no evidence of infection. Bacteria cultured are consistent with post mortem overgrowth. Though it is impossible to accurately determine fetal/neonate age histologically, all examined tissues appeared to be of appropriate maturity for a near to full term fetus/neonate. The significance of the lack of lymphoid follicle development in the spleen is uncertain, however, full-term bottlenose dolphin neonates usually have some lymphoid follicle development at the time of birth. There was no ingesta within the gastrointestinal tract, indicating that this animal had not nursed.

Reported By:

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