

**ZOOLOGICAL PATHOLOGY PROGRAM
STRANDED CETACEAN NECROPSY REPORT**

Field ID: SMM-20110128-LA001
Additional Identifier: LA482
ZPP Accession Number: 12-01Tt
Species: *Tursiops truncatus*
Strand Date: 01/28/2011
Strand Location: Grand Isle, Louisiana
Sex: Male
Age Class: Adult
Necropsy Date:
Condition code: 2
Total Length: 224 cm
Weight:
Blubber Depth:
Body Condition:

Gross Necropsy: Report on file. Findings include (from gross report):

Foreign object (fish) sheep's head in oral cavity with tail protruding from mouth. Goosebeak is dislodged and separated from blowhole by fish. The esophagus is dilated through the entire length and contains fish, digesta, and fish bones.

The left lung contains sparse multifocal 0.5 cm nodules. The right lung is more congested.

Slides/Tissues Received: 13 regular slides

Microscopic Findings:

Slide 1:

Kidney: The cortex contains a moderate focal accumulation of lymphocytes and macrophages surrounding tubules.

Lung: There are a few small aggregates of lymphocytes, macrophages, and rare neutrophils within alveolar septae surrounding blood vessels and bronchioles. One bronchiole contains a 75 micron diameter cross section of a degenerate nematode. Many alveoli contain pale eosinophilic fluid. There are a few areas in which septae have mildly increased amounts of fibrous connective tissue.

Slide 2:

Skeletal muscle: No significant findings (NSF).

Heart: NSF

Lymph node: NSF

Lymph node: Sinuses contain small to moderate numbers of macrophages and eosinophils.

Slide 3:

Lung: One bronchiole is segmentally obliterated by a nodular accumulation of dense fibrous connective tissue mixed with moderate numbers of macrophages, eosinophils, and lymphocytes. Centrally within the fibrous connective tissue are several approximately 300-400 micron cross sections of nematodes. The nematodes have an eosinophilic cuticle, a coelom, coelomyarian musculature, lateral cords, and a digestive tract composed of few cells.

Spleen: NSF. There are many prominent lymphoid follicles.

Liver: Portal triads are surrounded by small to moderate amounts of fibrous connective tissue.

Slide 4:

Penis: NSF

Urinary bladder: NSF

Heart: NSF

Slide 5:

Great vessels: NSF

Trachea: NSF

Slide 6:

Skin/Skeletal muscle: NSF

Heart: NSF

Diaphragm: NSF

Great vessel: NSF

Slide 7:

Skin: NSF

Slide 8:

Spinal cord: NSF

Slide 9:

Small intestine: NSF

Testis: NSF

Lymph node: NSF

Slide 10:

Large intestine: NSF

Colonic lymph node: NSF

Slide 11:

Adrenal gland: NSF

Tongue: NSF

Thymus: NSF

Slide 12:

Esophagus: NSF

Pharynx: NSF

Heart, papillary muscle: There is a moderately sized area in which fibrous connective tissue surrounds blood vessels and replaces and surrounds myocytes. Some myocytes in this area are small.

Slide 13:

Eye: NSF

Final Diagnoses:

1. Accidental death (gross diagnosis, see comment)
2. Lung: Focal chronic granuloma with few metastrongyles
3. Liver: Mild multifocal periportal fibrosis
4. Heart, papillary muscle: Moderate focal interstitial fibrosis
5. Kidney: Focal mild lymphocytic and granulomatous nephritis

Ancillary Test Results:

Brucella PCR negative. Report on file.

Comment:

This dolphin died from impaction of a fish in the esophagus with goosebeak dislodgement. Occasional similar cases have been noted in bottlenose dolphins from different regions.

Other lesions in this dolphin were very mild and clinically insignificant. The lung lesions were small and consistent with mild lungworm associated inflammation. Mild periportal fibrosis is a relatively common finding in adult dolphins.

Reported By:

Kathleen M. Colegrove-Calvey DVM, PhD, Dip ACVP
April 6, 2012