

**ZOOLOGICAL PATHOLOGY PROGRAM
STRANDED CETACEAN NECROPSY REPORT**

Field ID: 87IMMS041811
Additional Identifier: 05DISL041811
ZPP Accession Number: 11Tt-77
Species: *Tursiops truncatus*
Strand Date: 04/18/2011
Strand Location: Dauphin Island, Alabama
Sex: Female
Age Class: Calf
Necropsy Date:
Condition code: 2
Total Length: 104 cm
Weight: ~23 kg
Blubber Depth: 1.3 dorsal
Body Condition:

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

Caught in trawl net.

Fetal folds were prominent. Dorsal fin was slightly floppy and curved to the right. No vibrissae present. Flukes were not floppy with flat width of 28 cm. Rostral hair follicles were present. Teeth were not erupted. Pectoral flippers were not floppy. Dorsal keel was not floppy or folded. Papillae were present on the tongue. Nuchal “dent” was present. Umbilicus was completely healed.

Lungs: Both lungs floated in water. Serosal surface was generalized light pink and dark red mottled, puffy to touch. Both lungs had severe generalized parasitemia. Parasites were long, slender white worms. Right lung had submucosal bulla (approx 2 cm x 3 cm). There was air and worms in the bulla. Ventral to the bulla was a similar sized encapsulated cyst filled with large white worms.

Slides/Tissues Received: 16 slides

Microscopic Findings:

Slide 1:

Mesenteric lymph node: There is moderate lymphoid hyperplasia.

Slide 2:

Prescapular lymph node: Sinuses contain moderate numbers of neutrophils.

Slide 3:

Mediastinal lymph node: There is moderate lymphoid hyperplasia.

Slide 4:

Colonic lymph node: There is moderate lymphoid hyperplasia.

Slide 5:

Liver: No significant findings (NSF).

Thymus: NSF

Kidney: NSF

Slide 6:

Lungs: Multifocally bronchioles contain clusters of up to 800 micron diameter nematode parasites. Parasites have an eosinophilic cuticle, a coelom, coelomyarian musculature, lateral chords, a reproductive tract often containing larvae and an intestine lined by low, cuboidal, uni-nucleate enterocytes (metastrongyles). Affected bronchioles and small numbers of adjacent alveoli contain small to moderate numbers of macrophages and a few neutrophils. Rare alveolar spaces contain squamous cells (amniotic squams). Small numbers of alveolar spaces contain pale eosinophilic fluid (edema). The lungs are diffusely congested.

Spleen: Lymphoid follicles are small to occasionally moderate in size. The red pulp contains moderate numbers of erythroid and myeloid precursors and megakaryocytes.

Skeletal muscle: NSF

Slide 7:

Heart: NSF

Slide 8:

Adrenal gland: NSF

Thyroid gland: NSF

Umbilical vessel: NSF

Pancreas: NSF

Pharynx: NSF

Cervix: NSF

Slide 9:

Spinal cord: NSF

Colon: NSF

Esophagus: NSF

Urinary bladder: NSF

Umbilical artery: NSF

Vagina: NSF

Slide 10:

Esophagus: NSF

Stomach: NSF

Aorta: NSF

Great vessel: NSF

Slide 11:

Tongue: NSF

Trachea: The submucosa is congested and contains small numbers of lymphocytes. There are a few areas of mild hemorrhage in the tracheal lumen.

Tonsil: NSF

Slide 12:

Small intestine: NSF

Uterus: NSF

Stomach: NSF

Slide 13:

Skin/blubber: NSF

Slide 14:

Eye: NSF

Slide 15:

Umbilicus: NSF

Slide 16:

Umbilical vein: NSF

Final Diagnoses:

1. Lung: Mild multifocal granulomatous bronchopneumonia with intrabronchiolar metatrongyles
2. Lung: Moderate congestion and mild edema
3. Mesenteric, mediastinal, and colonic lymph nodes: Moderate lymphoid hyperplasia
4. Prescapular lymph node: Moderate neutrophilia
5. Trachea: Moderate congestion and mild lymphocytic tracheitis

Ancillary Test Results: None available at time of report.

Comments:

Histologic lesions were all mild and considered incidental findings. There was no evidence of any underlying disease in this dolphin. Death was most likely related to being caught in a trawl net per the history.

Of interest was the evidence of lungworm pneumonia in this young animal. Though the length was under 115 cm, this dolphin had breathed and tissue appearance was consistent with it being a full term animal. Lungworms have been previously noted in neonates though the finding of many adult worms in this individual was somewhat unique.

Reported By:

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