

The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston



DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY
DIVISION OF SURGICAL PATHOLOGY

2180 John Sealy Hospital, E-38
Galveston, Texas 77555-0588
(409) 772-2853
(409) 772-4676 (FAX)

Ramon L. Sanchez, M.D., Director
Daniel F. Cowan, M.D.
William K. Gourley, M.D.
Dhruv Kumar, M.D.
Shimareet Kumar, M.D.
L. Clarke Stout, Jr., M.D.

November 23, 1992

Graham Worthy, Ph.D
Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network
4700 Avenue U
Galveston, Texas 77550

RE: Tursiops GA 286

Dear Dr. Worthy;

This will report to you my findings in the case of the Tursiops referenced above. My opinion is based mainly on the gross autopsy examination, since study of histologic materials was very limited, owing to the animal having been frozen. A summary of the gross autopsy findings attached. A detailed description of the histopathology is available.

Given the information available, I don't know why this animal came ashore. All the things I found were old, such as pleural adhesions. There is no reason for old, scarred processes to cause the animal to strand. Freezing would effectively obscure any subtle findings, such as hepatitis or cardiomyopathy. The most interesting finding was of dilatation of the renal collecting system, because of obstruction due to thickening of the lining urothelium. I don't know what caused that. Others have attributed proliferation of h urothelium to toxic exposure, although I would expect that to have affected both sides. A more likely explanation in this animal would be a previous parasitic infestation, although I could not identify a parasite.

There was a granuloma in a lung caused by a lungworm. This is very common, as you know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D. Cowan".

Daniel F. Cowan, M.D.
Professor of Pathology

GA 286 *Tursiops truncatus* male 178.5 cm

Collected December 12, 1989. Brazoria county, 0.5 miles east of the mouth of the Brazos river. Deemed to be in fresh condition (Code 2)

Autopsy July 26, 1991. Animal had been frozen.

Externally, good condition, a few skin lesions, mostly around the head. No distinguishing marks.

Internal examination: Extensive adhesions of the lung to the chest wall on the right side. A 4 cm adhesion on the left, around the 4th rib area, laterally. Adhesions between the stomach and the left lobe of the liver. The pelvo-calyceal system of the left kidney is extensively dilated.