

Pathology Report

Submitter Ref.: H265	Date Sent: 01/11/2017	Accession No.: 55222
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To: Department of Conservation
Dunedin

Species: Cetacean	Breed: Hector's Dolphin		
Age: Adult	Sex: Female		
Owner:	Type: Post Mortem		
ID:	Prev. Accn.:		
Submitted:	At Risk:	Affected:	Dead:

History

Found dead at Pulling Point, Otago Harbour.

Gross Findings

This dolphin presented frozen and was thawed before necropsy. She was judged to be in good body condition and a good state of post mortem preservation other than typical changes associated with freezing and thawing. There were several old, well healed wounds including several notches on flippers, a ragged trailing edge of the dorsal fin, and scarring directly behind the dorsal fin, extending to an irregular star-like scar on the left flank. The mammary gland was poorly developed, and the ovaries were smooth and inactive. The uterine horns were flaccid and slightly enlarged, but there were no linear striations. The stomach was empty other than several nematodes.

The lungs had multiple 2 - 5mm diameter pale foci, some of which were firm to slightly gritty. No lungworms were seen.

There were no other gross lesions.

Histopathology

The most significant changes are within the lungs and lymph nodes, where there are multifocal areas of haemorrhage and necrosis. Similar, milder changes are present within the adrenal gland.

Supplementary testing: immunohistochemistry for *T. gondii* was positive on sections of lymph node, lung, liver and adrenal

Provisional Diagnosis

Open pending further testing

Diagnosis

Toxoplasmosis

Comments

There were microscopic lesions in the lungs, lymph nodes and adrenal glands that were consistent with toxoplasmosis. Specific testing for this was carried out in March 2018, and was positive - this dolphin died of toxoplasmosis.

Date: 12/03/2018	Pathologists:
Students:	