

# School of Veterinary Science

## Pathology Report

Submitter Ref.:	Date Sent: 12/02/2019	Accession No.: 56949
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To: [REDACTED]  
Department of Conservation  
Palmerston North

Report Sent: 15/02/2019  
Copy To:

Email:

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

### History

Dolphin washed up by Ashley Rivermouth. Callers moved the dolphin up above the high tide line.

### Gross Findings

The young calf was presented frozen and was thawed for necropsy. The body was in a good state of preservation and was in moderate body condition. There were prominent fetal folds and fetal whiskers were present, along with lateral tongue papillae and non-erupted teeth. The dorsal fin was not folded. There was no bruising, and no skin lesions were present. The stomach was empty other than a small amount of sand, the lacteals were not distended and there was no meconium in the large intestine. The lungs were moderately well inflated and floated in formalin. The urachus was probe patent, and there was a small amount of urine in the bladder. A fragment of fresh umbilical tissue approximately 1-2mm long was present around the margin of the umbilicus.

### Histopathology

Within the lungs there are several areas where alveoli contain moderate to large numbers of squames with low numbers of inflammatory cells. There are no other significant histological lesions.

### Diagnosis

Maternal separation

### Comments

This young calf had not fed recently, and had no evidence of underlying disease, although subtle lesions can be obscured by freeze-thaw damage. The diagnosis of maternal separation is not a specific condition, but can come about due to physical separation of a calf and its mother, for example during a storm event; due to maternal factors, such as illness or death of the mother; or due to calf factors. The histological changes seen in the lungs of this calf can be part of normal changes in the days following birth, but can also occur with some types of lung damage. In this case the low numbers of inflammatory cells present suggest that this could be a normal process, particularly if this is a very young calf.

Date: 15/02/2019	Pathologists: [REDACTED]
Students:	