Under the MicroScope:  
**101 presents, wrapped in alcohol**

Many thanks to The Internal Fund for Animal Welfare for 101 parasite samples, and the Marine Mammal Center for another gift with at least another 20-30 samples. This was one of my most productive years for parasite cases with over 160 cases analyzed. And, here at the end of the year, I received enough samples for 2014 all within the space of a few days, hopefully this winter I’ll find the time to get back under the microscope.

I’ve actually been neglecting the scope while compiling the data I have already accumulated with some library research and refining host specific taxon parasite charts. When presented with an acanthocephalin from a Harbor seal, it is helpful to have a chart of all the known acanthocephalins that have been previously found in Harbor seals, with some basic measurements and morphological features. It is then possible to see if the sample is consistent with one or more of the known parasites. If the sample is consistent with only one of the known parasites from this host and their is nothing morphologically inconsistent, then I can go ahead and make the identification. If there are problems, I can usually make at least a generic diagnosis and/or do more research with the specimen in question.

Here’s to a parasitic 2014, best wishes to all . . .
Sea Turtles: #31

fractured Left TIB/FIB, possible pneumonia
wt=1.8 kg, SCL=22.4, SCW=19.7, TPR=74.3, 50, 2, BS = 2/5
CC: strand 11/9/13 Orleans, left carapace instability, bilateral lung lesions, skull lesions, dysphagia
Last Rads: 12/3/13:
Last Blood: 11/25/13
CBC = WNL; iStat = WNL need CP
carapace instability, fractured and swollen left hind, exposed dermal bone on left hind marginal scutes, abrasions swelling and plastron lesions still significant, ventral rash
A: soft callus formation with fracture, turtle is very active
TX:
1- 15ml LRS SQ SID
2- ceftazidime 22 mg/kg IM q3d
3- vit B1, sea tabs, and calcium (oral)
4- meloxicam, 0.1 mg/kg IM q3d
5- SSD to lesions

Sea Turtles: #32

smallest sea turtle, sunken
wt=1.5 kg, SCL=20.2, SCW=18.8, TPR=73.7, 40, 6 BS = 2/5
CC: strand 11/13/13 Brewster
Last Blood: 12/3/13
CBC = WNL (monitor low normal PCV)
HIGH: ALKP, LDH, CHOL, GLU, UA
LOW: ALB, TP, ALT, PCV (low normal)
Last Rads: 11/16/13 mineral density in coelum
sunken appearance, plastron bruising, very small turtle
small Left nuchal skin/carapace lesion, minor head lacerations ventral hyperemia
A: improved, looking good
TX:
d/c fluids
1-switch from oxytex to ceftazidime 22 mg/kg IM Q3 d
2- vit B1, sea tabs, and calcium (oral)
Sea Turtles: #33- Gage
pneumonia, skin separation at nuchial area, flipper tip lesions RIGHT
wt=3.8 kg, SCL=29.0, SCW=27.2, TPR=74.8, 40, 2, BS = 2/5
CC: strand 11/13/13 Brewster,
Last Blood: 12/3/13
HI: ALKP, CK, LDH (8347), CHOL, GLU, UA
LOW: ALB, BUN, TP, ALT, PCV (22%)
Last Rads: 11/16/13-ovoid gas in LEFT coelum, small mineral
densities, BI pattern cranial lungs bilateral
Skin separation at neck skin to carapace bilateral, RFF tip lesion,
L elbow lesion, L hind minor abrasions, eating well, rostral
lesion. Severe RIGHT front flipper tip lesion. Right axilla red/
hyperemia, ulcers on head behind eyes
TX:
1- switch from oxytex. to ceftazidime 22 mg/kg IM Q3 d
2- vit B1, sea tabs, and calcium (oral)
3- SSD to wounds daily, after clean with chlorohexiderm
4- EOD fluids LRS SQ

Sea Turtles: #34
possible pneumonia,
wt=2.0 kg, SCL=22.9, SCW=21.0, TPR=74.6, 50, 2, BS = 2/5
CC: strand 11/13/13 Brewster, R eye + corneal ulcer
Last Blood: 11/25/13:
HI: WBC, ALP, CK, GLU, UA, , LDH
LOW: TP (PP=3.0) BUN, PCV (21%), ALT, ALB, PHOS
Last Rads: 11/16/13; marked BI pattern reduced right lung
lobe volume 0.6 x 3 cm soft tissue density in R lung, linear
densities left coelum 12/10/13: possible mild left lung minor
increase BI density.
RFF tip lesions, minor, R hind skin superficial avulsion,
plastron ulcers, minor carapace ulcers, under R eye scar,
separation of nuchial skin, minor rostral lesion
TX d/c fluids
1- ceftazidime 22 mg/kg IM q3d
2- vit B, sea tabs, and calcium (oral)
3- SSD when pulled
Sea Turtles: #35

**carapace lesions**

wt=3.4 kg, SCL=27.8, SCW=26.3, TPR=77.3, 40, 1 BS = 2/5
CC: strand 11/16/13 Fisher Beach
Last Blood: 12/3/13
HI: ALKP, CK (7105), LDH (5222), GLU, UA
LOW: ALT, PCV (17.5%)
Last Rads: 12/19/13: 1cm mineral and gas densities in coelum;

plastron bruising and hyperemia, mild shell abrasions, minor front flipper tip lesions, small R sided carapace, minor FfTip, lesions Right axilla, minor plastron bruseing
A: eating better, doing well
TX:
1- ceftazidime 22 mg/kg IM q3d
2- vit B1, sea tabs, and calcium
3- SSD when pulled

Sea Turtles: #36 - aggressive feeder

**carapace ulcers & abrasions**

wt=3.0 kg, SCL=25.7, SCW=24.3 TPR=75.9, 40, 2 BS = 2/5
CC: strand 11/12/13 Brewster
Last Blood: 12/3/13
CBC = WNL
HI: CK (2371), CHOL, GLU, CA(8.5), UA (0.5)
LOW: ALB, TP, ALT
Last Rads: 12/17/13; lungs improved, WNL
Carapace abrasions, minor, R lateral scute #2 and vertebral scute 4 with ulcers, RFF D2 boney knob (check with rads), plastron bruising, carapace ulcers, small rostral lesion
A: doing well, aggressive turtle
TX:
2- switch from oxytet to ceftazidime 22 mg/kg IM q3d
3- vit B1, sea tabs, and calcium (oral)
4- chlohexiderm soak 5 min, followed by SSD on pull days
Sea Turtles: #37 Marina
flipper lesions, worst eater
wt=1.8 kg, SCL=22.8, SCW=21.3, TPR=76.2, 40, 1 BS = 2/5
CC: strand 11/13/13 Brewster, right eye slight opacity, Left eye central opacity
Last Blood: 11/25/13
HI: WBC (10K), ALP, CK, GLU (143), LDH, UA (0.3)
LOW: ALB, TP, PP, ALT
Last Rads: 11/15/13 soft tissue defect 1x1 cm distal LF D3 D4, 5x2 mineral density in coleum
Bruising on plastron, R marginal scute #12-13 lesions, LFF missing notch, minor carapace Left lateral scute #3 lesion, minor plastron brusing, minor head lesions
A: Appetite varies still, monitor closely
TX
1- ceftazidime 22 mg/kg IM q3d
2- vit B, sea tabs, and calcium (oral)

Sea Turtles: #38
rostral lesion
wt=1.8 kg, SCL=22.4, SCW=20.8, TPR=81.8, 48, 1 BS = 2/5
CC: strand 11/4/13 Brewster
Last Blood: 12/3/13
HIGH: PCV (31%), ALKP, LDH, CHOL, GLU, UA;
low:
Last Rads: 11/22/13 7 x 4 mm ovid mineral density in coleum, possible soft tissue densities in lung fields on DV
Rostral lesion improved, minor head lesions, minor FF tip lesions
FEVER ?
A: everything getting better, good eater
TX:
1- switch from oxytet to ceftazidime 22 mg/kg IM q3d
2- vit B1, sea tabs, and calcium (oral)
3- SSD daily
Sea Turtles: #39
oral barnacles-- CAUTION BITES--
wt=3.5 kg, SCL=26.8, SCW=25.5, TPR=75.9, 50, 1 BS =2/5
CC: strand 11/11/13 Eastham, 3-4 raised barnacle like lesions in oral cavity, slight cloacal prolapse, opacity to LEFT eye minor
Last Blood: 11/25/13
HI: WBC (11K), ALKP, CK(22186), LDH (8353), GLU (188), Ca (8.9), K (4.8), UA (0.4)
LOW: PP, ALT, CHOL
Last Rads: 12/19/13 min. BI pattern bilateral, 0.4 cm rectangular density and very small mineral density, no GI obstruction
Confirmed oral/tongue lesions look like barnacles, also appears to be resolving, minor FF tip lesions, no prolapse, mild plastron bruising, R hind nail avulsion, new bump on head, bilateral hind flipper nail avulsions
TX:
1- switch from oxytetr to ceftazidime 22 mg/kg IM q3d
2- vit B1, sea tabs, and calcium (oral)

Sea Turtles: #40
pneumonia and pink mouth (algae ?), swollen LEFT Front Flipper, early osteolysis D2P1-2
wt=2.5 kg, SCL=25.5, SCW=23.3, TPR=76.1, 40, 1 BS =2/5
CC: strand 11/13/13 Brewster, cloacal prolapse, bright pink color to rhampthecia in mouth
Last Blood: 11/25/13
HIGH: WBC, ALKP, CK(17486), LDH (7474), UA, GLU (137), PVC (35%), AST, CHOL, UA (0.3)
LOW: ALB, TP, PP (3.4), BUN, Ca, ALT, PHOS (4.7)
Last Rads: 12-24-13: BI pattern bilateral, increased soft tissue density in LEFT lung field, end plate lysis LFF D2P1-2, minor lesion RFF D3 P3 and P4 lytic lesions
Left upper eye lid trauma, lower rhampothecia bight pink (does not scrape off), RFF lower tip lesion, LFF lost flipper tip, Swollen LFF at D1 nail, rads today
TX
1- 20 ml LRS SQ EOD
2- ceftazidime 22 mg/kg IM q3d
3- vit B1, sea tabs, and calcium (oral)
4- SSD when pulled 5- meloxicam, 0.1 mg/kg IM q3d
Sea Turtles: #41 the loggerhead
loss of scutes from flippers
wt=39.7 kg, SCL= 63.3 SCW=53.5, TPR= 79.1, 40, 4 BS =2/5
CC: strand 12/8/13 Brewster, cold stun
Last Blood:12/11/13 @ NEAq
HIGH: CK (19373), LDH (1113), UA (0.8)
LOW: ALB (1.1)
Last Rads:
SOAP: BAR, active, resists examination,
20-30 barnacles, most dead, some coming off, some on
plastron, lesions to both front flippers with loss of scutes
Eating fish and squid.
TX
1-LRS 500ml LRS SQ EOD
2- ceftazadime 22 mg/kg IM q3d
3- vit B1, sea tabs, and calcium (oral)

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