

Rounds

Animal Health
Department

Medical Rounds

"medicine for all"



Caring for Stranded Marine Animals

NATIONAL
MARINE
L I F E
CENTER

Notes

Veterinary Research
Department

Under the microscope

rwilliams@nmlc.org

Rounds Notes is a report on the health of animals at the National Marine Life Center from Sea Rogers Williams VMD for the staff, volunteers, and community of the center including professionals involved the captive care of similar species, the views expressed are not necessarily that of NMLC. Information in Rounds Notes should be considered confidential and used solely to benefit the health of aquatic animals everywhere.

September 8, 2009

Rounds Notes

17: 42- 43(2009)

Clinical Update: Patty



Patty has had several superficial debridement procedures and the 'creeping crud's' advancement appears to be stopped but the shell has exposed dermal bone and healing is slow. In areas where the dermal bone is exposed we must wait for re-epithelization which will not occur with repeated trauma, dryness, or infection. We are covering the areas with SSD daily, essentially treating them like a burn injury, the actual trauma was the opposite with extreme cold causing disease deep in the skin last winter.

Antibiotics have been changed from injectable ceftadime to oral enrofloxacin and we are considering

a CT exam to look 'into' the bones of the shell to see if sequestrum have formed that are not visible on the surface and would not be seen on regular radiographs.

Patty continues to eat and daily treatments continue. Blood gas analysis is unchanged and once a clean and sterile stick can be achieved we will run a blood culture. Deep culture of the effected areas is also being considered, these would need to be sampled under general anesthesia.

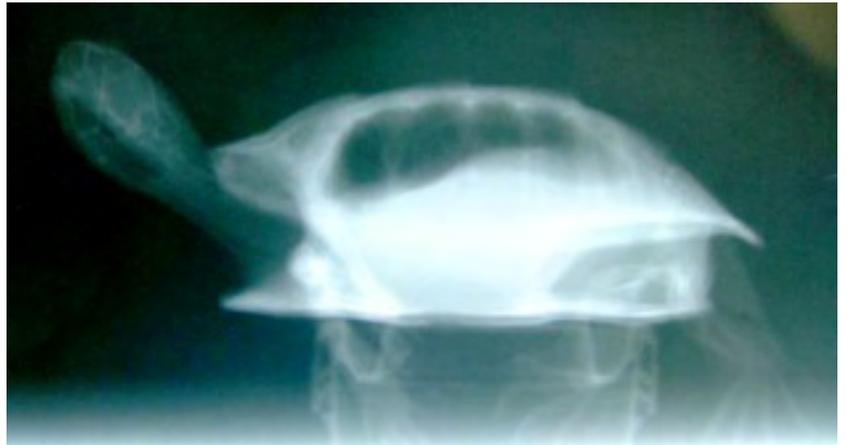
I have been studying the shell disease of turtles including an unidentified shell disease of river cooters from Georgia (Garner et al., 1997) and new treatments including vacume assisted closure (Adkesson et al., 2007) and use of rMnSOD which was used in a sea turtle that suffered a similar injury (Occhiello et al., 2009).

Terrapins, Cooters, and Turtles, oh

my . . . : byline

The 2009 hold-back head-start class has ended with 5 of the 6 cooters being returned to the wild on August 18, 2009 in Middlebuorow. Number 198, the only turtle that did not make the release goal of 85mm SCL was moved from head-start to rehabilitation, and a release request was placed with the state. My assessment was that 198 was conditionally releasable and since the treatment for the slow growth and soft caudal carapace is sunshine I recommend release.

Examination for this assessment included blood gas analysis and radiographs.



C. Rogers Williams VMD

Sea Rogers Williams VMD
attending veterinarian and director of science



[STAFF: Kathy Zagzebski, Bridget Dunnigan, Brian Moore, Joanne Nicholson]