



Rounds Notes is a monthly report from Sea Rogers Williams VMD, the views expressed are not necessarily that of the National Marine Life Center. Information in Rounds Notes should be considered confidential and used solely to benefit the health of aquatic animals everywhere.

March 3, 2009

Rounds Notes 6: 16- 17 (2009)

Headlines News: Poop positive, Rubber 0, Turtle 2

Sea Turtles

Fletcher: Hooray ! Fletch passed the two rubber attachments pieces! One last Wednesday (day 23) and the final one on Sunday (day 27), similar to published GI transit times for loggerhead sea turtles. The second CT exam did show some loops of bowel to be more distended then the initial exam taken the day after the pieces were noticed missing, and Fletch ate very little the day after the first piece was passed which followed some "stress" swimming. Further, on Sunday, when the final piece was delivered, it was accompanied by 25g of poop, 7x the normal amount. Was this evidence of a partial obstruction , or at least some influence ? probably but we don't know for sure.



I did give some laxatone and we had a positive outcome, so did the laxatone help ? Truth is we don't know, I hate these "n of 1" (low population samples) examples, they make for bad science, but who can argue with what appears to be a success. Let's focus on release, a blood drawl and possible exit physical will be Thursday.



So far, and with another low population pilot study, the trematode egg size and shape does not appear to be severely effected by either alcohol or formalin, good news when reviewing the literature and applying these measurements to fresh material.



Loggerhead trematode ova

		um	um	sq um	um
		major	minor	area	perimeter
egg 1	fresh	44.79	34.27	1205.49	124.18
egg 2	fresh	68.51	57.04	3069.25	197.22
egg 3	fresh	68.5	52.34	2815.42	189.8

egg 4	fresh	47.1	34.04	1259.3	127.46
egg 5	fresh	50.66	37.03	1473.26	137.74
egg 6	fresh	47.89	35.67	1341.63	131.26
egg 6 c	fresh	47.59	31.27	1144.34	122.31
egg 6 b	fresh	45.99	35.57	1284.77	128.11
	av	53	40	1699	145
	SD	10	10	776	31
day 12					
egg1	70% ethanol	46.98	34.54	1274.35	128.05
egg 2	70% ethanol	64.43	50.94	2577.8	181.22
egg 3	70% ethanol	48.43	32.87	1250.31	127.71
egg 4	70% ethanol	37.92	36.66	1091.93	117.16
egg 5	70% ethanol	47.12	37.78	1398.14	133.36
	av	49	39	1519	138
	SD	10	7	602	25
day 12					
egg 1	10% NBF	44.7	34.5	1211.21	124.41
egg 2	10% NBF	63.82	49.69	2490.74	178.31
egg 3	10% NBF	45.58	34.55	1236.85	125.87
	av	51	40	1646	143
	SD	11	9	731	31

I wonder if there are even two populations of eggs here. Is there more than one trematode in there? I'd need to measure a bunch more eggs to pull that information out.

Terrapins

All are doing well, with good appetites and normal terrapin behavior.

Cooters

Growing, growing, . . . To handle the water quality, the large sand filter and filter box has been set-up on the Red-belly tank, looks good.



Sea Turtles at Large

No 'hits' from Lavender for a while, this could mean she is on the move again, simple luck of the drawl with satellite coverage, or we could be finally out of juice in the batteries, let's hope not and perhaps we'll get a hit soon. It would be interesting to see what Lavender does in the spring.

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