

# Rounds

Animal Health  
Department

Medical Rounds

"medicine for all"



NATIONAL  
MARINE  
L I F E  
CENTER  
*Caring for Stranded Marine Animals*

# Notes

Veterinary Research  
Department

Under the microscope

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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.

April 22, 2014

*Rounds Notes*

11: 71-74(2014)

## Under the MicroScope:

*R o u n d a n d R o u n d*

Perhaps the most difficult parasite samples I receive are among the most common, the large Anisakid gastric worms. The L4 and L5 forms are large, robust, and opaque. The oral opening with three large lips makes assigning them to the Anisakid group easy, but no internal morphology is visible and let's face it, compared to other parasites, nematodes are morphology deficient. Most current work on these species involves molecular methods and I can understand this approach. They are almost too big to clear, lactopenol does not do a great job and could take hours, but they are almost too small to dissect. I've taken a few apart but it's not as east as it sounds to determine their internal morphology after a surgical exploration. Histopath works great but is expensive and has a very slow turn around.

The chart to the left are the GI nematodes most commonly reported in marine mammals, and I hope by this study we can be more efficient and more detailed in the study of these common, pathogenic, zoonotic, and worms of great economic importance and the source of some strife between the fishing industry and marine mammal populations.

**Turtle Notes:** Kemp's release in Jacksonville FLA occurred without a hitch, good work everyone!

## Sea Turtles:#31 Cherry 3/18/14 fractured Left TIB/FIB

wt=4.6 kg, SCL=29.4, SCW=26.3, TPR=n/a, 50, ?, BS = 3/5  
 CC: strand 11/9/13 Orleans, left carapace instability, bilateral lung lesions, skull lesions, dysphagia  
 Last Rads:12/3/13; 2/18/14; 4-7-14  
 Last Blood:11/25/13;1/4/14; 4-7-14  
 CBC: WNL  
 HIGH: LDH (11022)  
 A: mild lymphocytosis  
 PE: reaction to LHF inconel tag,  
 A:ok to monitor  
 TX:  
 1- vit B1, sea tabs, and calcium (oral)  
 2-- SSD to lesions



## Sea Turtles:#33- Gage 3/18/14 elevated tissue enzymes, flipper tip lesions resolving

wt=6.4 kg, SCL=33.9, SCW=31.4, TPR=n/a, n/a, ?, BS = 3/5  
 CC: strand 11/13/13 Brewster  
 Last Blood:12/3/13; 1/6/14, 1/7/14; 3/11/14;4/7/14  
 HI: ALT(67), AST(1371),LDH(6286)  
 CBC; WNL  
 A: elevated tissue possible liver enzymes, or other  
 Last Rads:11/16/13; 3/11/14-resolving flipper tip lesions, very mild phlange reaction, should not interfere with release, lungs on AP look good  
 PE: minimal proliferation at flipper tips, minor rostral lesion  
 A: flipper tips essentially healed, monitor rostrum  
 TX:  
 1- vit B1, sea tabs, and calcium (oral)



**Sea Turtles: #40 North Star**  
**LEFT Front Flipper, late osteolysis D2P1-2**  
**rostral lesion**

wt=4.4 kg, SCL=30.0, SCW=27.3, TPR=n/a, 50, ? BS =3/5

CC: strand 11/13/13 Brewster, cloacal prolapse

Last Blood: 11/25/13, 1/4/14; 1/21/14; 2/5/14; 4/7/14

CBC WNL

HIGH: LDH (3913), GLU (144)

A: off abx

Last Rads: 12-24-13; 3-4-14; 4-7-14

Note the changes from in initial lesion with sub end plate lysis and the late phase lesion with flared epiphysis, erosion of epiphyseal bone, and joint expansion. Minor lesions in RFF D3P4-5, RHF D2 P3-4, lungs look good

PE: Swelling of LFF subjectively better, healing Left side of face bite, minor rostral lesion is present and deeper.

A: deep rostral lesion and set back with weight gain

P: monitor function and blood values

TX

1- vit B1, sea tabs, and calcium (oral)

2- SSD to rostrum when pulled



## Sea Turtles: #41 Tide the loggerhead

### loss of scutes from flippers, red stuff 4/1/14

wt=43.7 kg, SCL= 64.3 SCW=54.2, TPR=n/a, 20, 4 BS =3/5

CC: strand 12/8/13 Brewster, cold stun

Last Blood: 3/16/14

HIGH: CK (3121), LDH (398), GLU (135)

but values much improved, little bump up in CK, LDH

Last Rads: 1/7/14

PE: Red discoloration of the rhampothecia and the plastron was more apparent.

A: red discoloration to shell is present, slow but steady improvement in skin healing, and superficial loss of shell keratin with healthy keratin layer exposed

TX

1- clean flipper tips with dilute choloherm 5min when out.

1-vit B1, sea tabs, and calcium (oral)



## Terapins: Penny

*flaking off, growing back?*

wt=1.2 kg, SCL=18.1cm, SCW=14.4

PE: BAR, active and eating, areas of scar tissue with contraction, clear evidence of vital carapace epidermis over 90% of the shell, the plastron is not involved. Minor areas of marginal scutes may still lose some necrotic dermal bone, edema is still present.

P: increase salinity from 5ppt to 7 ppt ok for 2 ppt increase per week until 12 ppt

Consider release this summer.

