



ABSTRACTS – POSTERS (Alphabetical order)

9.5 kg ambergris coprolite linked to a lethal septicemia in a stranded male Sperm Whale in La Palma (Canary Islands)

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On the 21st of May 2023, a dead adult male sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*) of around 13m in length and around 18 tons (Lockyer C, 1976) was reportedly stranded at Playa Los Nogales, La Palma, Canary Islands, Spain. The animal showed no external injuries and a very fresh condition. Necropsy was done 48hpm later. The most visible gross pathological findings were identified in the left side of the ventricular heart cavity, where marked multifocal hemorrhagic areas could be easily distinguished from the non-hemorrhagic tissue. These hemorrhagic areas extended locally from the epicardial surface deep into the myocardial muscles. These findings were especially notable in the papillary muscles of the left ventricle, and not so evident by gross examination in the myocardium of the right ventricle. The gastric content was not abundant, with some squid beaks and fish lenses as part of the collected content. A 5 cm metal fishing hook was also found among the gastric content. There was a light brown creamy content in the duodenum. The colon was extremely dilated. This area was estimated to be located 1 to 2 meters cranial to the anus. In its lumen and close to the rectum, a 9.5 Kg solid coprolite with irregular external morphology, putrid smell, and around 50 cm of diameter was found, partially or entirely obstructing the intestinal lumen. Microbiological analysis identified the presence of *Edwardsiella tarda* in isolates from heart, blood, lungs, liver, and muscle cultures. *Hathewayia limosa* was also identified in blood, lungs, muscle, and liver samples; and *Clostridium perfringens* was identified in both the heart and blood. It was concluded a final diagnosis of a lethal septicemia from intestinal origin linked to a partial colonic obstruction caused by a 9.5 Kg coprolite (ambergris stone).