

Necropsy Report

Killer Whale (*Orcinus-orca*) Ramu

Age 18 yrs — SeaWorld of Florida

Name: Ramu (male)

Species: Killer Whale (*Orcinus orca*)

Source: wild capture, 02-15-1967, Yukon Harbor, WA, USA, age: est. 3 yrs

Deceased: 01-12-1982, SeaWorld of Florida, age: est. 18 yrs

Reported cause of death (per NMFS MMIR data): Old Age

Necropsy info:

Diagnosis- Lanny H. Cornell, DVM (1982):

- 1) cardiopulmonary decomposition;
- 2) infectious pleuritis;
- 3) numerous senile changes.

Notes: Prior to reforms of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) in 1994, holders of marine mammals for public display were required to submit necropsy reports (animal autopsy reports) for deceased animals, making the documents available to the public and scientific community. Presently, marine mammal parks in the U.S. are only required to provide a “cause of death” to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) which maintains Marine Mammal Inventory Reports (MMIR). Details of marine mammal deaths are now a closely guarded secret at U.S. entertainment facilities.

The Orca Project acquired the following documents from the National Marine Fisheries Service (U.S.A) via the Freedom of Information Act for deaths that occurred prior to implementation of the 1994 MMPA changes.

For more information visit www.theorcaproject.com

Necropsy, Autopsy, Veterinarian, NOAA, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, MMIR, Marine Mammal Inventory Report, MMPA, Marine Mammal Protection Act, Killer Whale, Orca, Shamu, Death, Die, SeaWorld, Orlando, Florida, Ramu

SEA WORLD, INC.

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

NECROPSY REPORT

ANIMAL NAME: _____ PATH. NO. SW 82105
GENUS/SPECIES: Orcinus orca I.D. NO. SWF-00-003
DATE/TIME OF DEATH: 1/12/82 SEX: M. X F. _____
DATE/TIME OF NECROPSY: 1/12/82

CLINICAL HISTORY PRIOR TO DEATH:

The animal was treated for the past 18 months for chronic, partially unresponsive, hypochromic microcytic anemia, nephritis and congestive heart failure. The animal's food consumption was 300-500 lbs. per day.

GROSS NECROPSY FINDINGS:

WEIGHT: 5900 lbs. LENGTH: 24 ft. GIRTH: _____

Integument: The integument appears normal. The animal is slightly over 24 ft. in length, and his girth is 23 ft. at the chest.

Respiratory System: The lungs are congested, and there is severe fibrinous pleuritis. Both the left and right pleural cavities contain 24-30 gallons of serous fluid. The parietal surface of the lungs is 1/2"-3/4" thick.

Digestive System: The stomach is normal; the glandular stomach contains two outpockets instead of the normal one. There are a few nematode parasites in the glandular stomach. The liver is heavily congested, and the blood vessels throughout are distended with fluid and blood. The edges of the liver are rounded severely, and the serosal surface of the liver is thickened and edematous. There appears to be centrilobular necrosis. The intestines appear normal.

Lymphatic System: The mediastinal lymph nodes are greatly enlarged and congested. The spleen is congested.

Cardiovascular System: The right ventricle of the heart is distended.

Endocrine & Exocrine System: The pancreas is normal except for one small area 5-10cm in diameter which is consolidated and scarred and does not appear active. The adrenal glands are slightly enlarged but appear to be normal on gross examination.

Urinary System: Both kidneys are congested, with cortical deterioration in both lobules. There is a thick urine-like material in the pelves and in the kidneys and bladder.

Nervous System: The brain is normal on gross examination.

PARASITES:

ORGAN/TISSUE	STAGE	SPECIES	DESCRIPTION
stomach	adult	nematode	

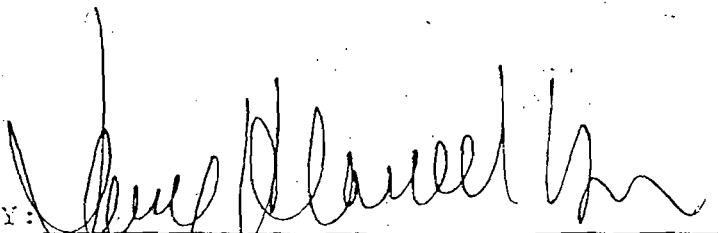
CULTURES TAKEN:

ORGAN/TISSUE	I.D.
kidney	
urinary tract	

HISTO TAKEN:

lung
liver
kidney
adrenal gland
lymph node
spleen

- DIAGNOSIS:
- 1) cardiopulmonary decompensation;
 - 2) infectious pleuritis;
 - 3) numerous senile changes.

BY: 
 LANNY H. CORNELL, D.V.M.