

Necropsy Report

Killer Whale (*Orcinus-orca*) Winston

Age 23 yrs — SeaWorld of California

Name: Winston (male) (aka- Ramu)

Species: Killer Whale (*Orcinus orca*)

Source: wild capture, 08-08-1970, Penn Cove, WA, USA, age: est. 7 yrs

Deceased: 11:30 pm, 04-28-1986, SeaWorld of California, age: est. 23 yrs

Reported cause of death (per NMFS MMIR data): Chronic Cardiovascular Failure

Necropsy info:

Diagnosis- Lanny H. Cornell, DVM (1986):

- 1) chronic cardiovascular failure (cardiac infarcts)
- 2) nephrosis; chronic interstitial nephritis
- 3) systemic failure and resultant septicemia

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, San Diego, California, Winston

SEA WORLD, SAN DIEGO

NECROPSY REPORT

GENUS/SPECIES: Orcinus orca I.D.NO. SWC-Oo-7601

DATE/TIME OF DEATH: 4/28/86: 2330 PATH. NO. SW 86072

DATE/TIME OF NECROPSY: 4/29/86 SEX: male

CLINICAL HISTORY PRIOR TO DEATH: The animal exhibited a gradual decline in appetite and general health over a six month period. Decrease in kidney function became an acute kidney failure about two weeks previous to death. Fluid therapy was given by intravenous and subcutaneous fluids and support therapy for two weeks prior to death. The animal appeared to rally about 48 hours prior to death, becoming generally more alert, etc. Sudden death occurred at approximately 11:30 p.m. on April 28, 1986.

APPEARANCE: Appearance was good, except for skin lesions on the chin (keratosis) and at the base of the dorsal fin. Animal was very old in appearance generally.

WEIGHT: approx. 12,000 lbs. LENGTH: 24'7" GIRTH: _____

GROSS NECROPSY FINDINGS:

INTEGUMENT: Keratosis is evident on the mandible at the chin. The base of the dorsal fin (left side, inner curvature) was extremely keratotic looking with hyperepithelial response.

MUSCULOSKELETAL: Normal except for the dorsal lumbar and coccygeal muscles behind the dorsal fin, which are ischemic and pale.

RESPIRATORY: There is acute pulmonary congestion with frothy tracheal fluid. Both the right and left lungs contain numerous marble-size (1-2 cm) abscess lesions with greenish tinged exudate.

GROSS FINDINGS (continued):

CARDIOVASCULAR: The right epicardium and the left ventricle exhibit baseball size cirrhotic lesions on the ventral side. There are numerous 0.5-1.5 cm cirrhotic lesions throughout the ventricle, ~~which appear to be from very old cardiovascular infarcts.~~

DIGESTIVE:

LIVER: The liver is swollen and pale yellow with rounded edges.

STOMACH: Normal, no visible lesions.

PANCREAS: The pancreas is cirrhotic and hemorrhagic throughout.

INTESTINE: There is a keratotic lesion at the anus. Intestine is otherwise normal.

UROGENITAL: The kidneys are very pale with a few granular casts in the calayces. The kidneys are as would appear in chornic interstitial nephritis in old animals.

ENDOCRINE:

ADRENAL: The adrenal glands are hemorrhagic throughout.

THYROID: No visible lesions.

REPRODUCTIVE: The testes are large (12 kg \pm) and sperm is present throughout both testicles. Testicles exhibited no visible lesions.

LYMPHATICS: The lymph nodes in the cervical and thoracic areas are swollen, congested and somewhat hemorrhagic with some purulent exudate.

SPLEEN: The spleen is enlarged and hemorrhagic.

NERVOUS SYSTEM: No visible lesions.

HISTOPATHOLOGY: lung, heart, liver, kidney, pancreas, adrenal gland,
spleen, lymph node, testes, skeletal muscle

PARASITES:

CULTURES:

- DIAGNOSIS: 1) chronic cardiovascular failure (cardiac infarcts)
2) nephrosis; chronic interstitial nephritis
3) systemic failure and resultant septicemia

CURATOR: _____
VETERINARIAN: *Joseph [unclear]*
TECHNICIAN: _____