

Necropsy Report  
PRIVILEGED INFORMATION  
NOT FOR PUBLICATION,  
DUPLICATION OR DISTRIBUTION

Species Name	: GYMNOGYPS CALIFORNIANUS	Necropsy #	: RP16288
Common Name	: CALIFORNIA CONDOR	Accession #	: Referred
		Endangered -	USDI: E CITES: 1
Sex	: Unknown	ID #	: Enclosure:
Birth Date	: 24 APRIL 2010	Prosector	: DR. ILSE STALIS
Death Date	: 2010/05/29	Histologist	:
Preliminary	: 2010/05/30	Necropsy Date	: 2010/05/30
Final	: 2011/11/15	Carcass Disp.	:
Addendum	:	Age at Death	: JUVENILE

Record initiated by JK

HISTORY: This California Condor was submitted from Baja. Hatch Date: 2010/04/24. No band ID. Dam ID: SB #284. Sire ID: SB #269. Bird was hatched and raised in the wild. 35 day old chick. Mike Wallace injected 1/2 ml into each breast muscle in a cave nest in the mountains of Sierra San Pedro de Martir Baja CA. The capture was quick with little struggling. The bird seemed normal, hissing and biting. Upon finishing the injections the bird seemed normal then convulsed, laid prone and died. Handling time was 15-20 seconds. Body received on 2010/05/30 at 16:15 and necropsied that date at 17:45.

GROSS FINDINGS:

Juvenile; gender undetermined. Body weighs 2.69kg. Feathers are downy. The ventral midline abdomen has a 3 cm long grey region with a central 2 mm wide by 5 mm long yellow-brown crust (umbilicus).

The cervical air sacs are distended with gas.

The pericardial sac is markedly distended and filled with about 3 - 5 cc of dark red, watery fluid (blood). The epicardium has an extensive area of hemorrhage. This can not be wiped off, is < 1mm thick, and does not extend into underlying myocardium. The affected area involves the right ventricle in the pulmonary outflow region along the interventricular groove and extends towards the apex. It also extends to involve an approximately 8 mm diameter region of the left ventricle at the apex.

The lungs are dark red and sections float below the surface of formalin.

The oral cavity contains a small amount (about 1/2 cc) of grey and tan mucoid material. The crop is filled with soft tan and brown material, a few black feathers, skin with black hair, and a few small stones. Also present is a piece of white-grey plastic which is roughly "L" shaped. The longest parts are 2.3 and 2.7 cm and the corresponding width of each arm is 1.6 and 1.7 cm. And there is a 1.4 x 0.7 x 0.3 cm irregular, white and grey hard structure which may be some type of bone. The proventriculus is empty. The gizzard is filled with soft tan and brown material, pieces of bone, hair, feathers, and flat pieces of hard plastic, white and black amalgamated stones, small black stones, and an elastic band. The elastic band is dark red (burgundy) and forms a circular loop which is 3 mm diameter, about 14 cm long, and has a braided surface. The plastic is of various types and includes white-grey material, a 1.7 x 1.5 x 0.1

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piece of dark blue plastic, and a 8 x 3 x 1 mm red plastic. Also present are two thin pieces of metal which are about 2.5 cm long and 0.5 cm wide, have holes, and are attached at one end by a small broken piece of plastic. The small intestine is filled with thick fluid grey material. The distal intestine contains thick fluid brown/black material. The cloaca is empty.

The liver is light tan.

A single brown-green elongate gonad is found on the left side.

Skeletal muscles of the medial aspect of the proximal hind limbs are about 30% pale. Proximal tibiotarsal muscle are almost all pale. For both legs.

A vial of vaccine is received with the body (presumably that which was administered was from the same lot):

Merial West Nile virus vaccine, live canarypox vaccine, serial # 54041, exp. 12AUG10

diluent: serial # 55024 exp. 16MAR12

Additional gross findings (11Jun2010):

Following fixation and trimming of tissues the heart is reexamined. An additional finding is that at the apex of the left ventricle there is an approximately 1 mm diameter red-brown region on the epicardial surface. The discoloration extends 3 mm into the myocardium. It is not clear whether or not the discoloration extends to the endocardium.

Histopathology is pending. Cytology: lung. Frozen -20 degrees C.: crop content, gizzard content, liver (x3), foot, skeletal muscle. Frozen -70 degrees C.: lung (x2), heart, brain, intestine, kidney, liver (x2), spleen, pooled heart/brain/kidney. Ryder: heart. Body saved.

Preliminary Dx:

1. Pericardial sac: hemopericardium
2. Lung: possible congestion
3. Heart: severe regional epicardial hemorrhage
4. Crop, gizzard: foreign material
5. Good body condition

FINAL DX:

- 1) HEART: FOCAL MYOCARDIAL HEMORRHAGE (INJECTION SITE, PRESUMPTIVE)
- 2) PERICARDIAL SAC: HEMOPERICARDIUM
- 3) HEART: SEVERE REGIONAL EPICARDIAL HEMORRHAGE
- 4) LUNG: CONGESTION
- 5) GOOD BODY CONDITION

COMMENT:

Death is attributed to injection of vaccine into the heart and subsequent bleeding into the pericardial sac. No significant underlying disease is identified. In house immunostain for West Nile

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virus is negative. Because of permit restrictions, samples have not been tested for heavy metals (including lead).

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