



CAHFS Accession #: S2101099 **FINAL REPORT**

elephant Ref.#:

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E-Signed and Authorized by: Asin Ros, Javier on 4/1/2021 8:41:13AM

Collection Site:



This report supersedes all previous reports for this case

MEDICINE

1 Carcass; **Specimens Received:**

Date Collected: 02/05/2021 Date Received: 02/05/2021



Laboratory Findings/Diagnosis

A female African elephant

that died with a 17-day history of gastrointestinal disease

Colonic sand impaction ("sand colic"), with obstruction, ruptured cecum, peritonitis, and sepsis/endotoxemia

Main gross/microscopic diagnoses and lab test results

- 1. Cecum:
 - a. ~25 cm tear/rupture of the wall with release of contents (forage) to abdominal cavity
 - b. Dissecting hemorrhage and necrosis of the ruptured wall
 - c. Streptococcus sp., Lactobacillus spp. isolated; cecal tear
- 2. Colon: Abundant, dense sandy material with variably-sized stones ("sand impaction"; likely predisposing factor for #1)
- 3. GI serosae, mesentery, omentum, abdominal cavity:
 - a. Serositis/peritonitis, fibrinous, with bacteria and vegetal material (secondary to #1)
 - b. Abundant (~10 L) turbid fluid with strands of fibrin and forage
 - c. Enterococcus faecium isolated; peritoneum
- 4. Spleen: Perisplenitis/capsulitis, fibrinous, diffuse, with bacteria and vegetal material (secondary to #1)
- 5. Liver: Perihepatitis/capsulitis, fibrinous, diffuse, with bacteria and vegetal material (secondary to #1)
- 6. Heart: Multifocal epicardial petechiae (likely related to sepsis/endotoxemia; secondary to #1, #3)

Other gross/microscopic diagnoses and lab test results

- 1. Liver:
 - a. Congestion, centrilobular, marked (likely agonal)
- b. Streptococcus lutetiensis isolated (likely terminal/contaminant)
- 2. Lungs:

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a. Congestion, diffuse, with rare organizing intravascular fibrin (likely agonal and/or related to sepsis/endotoxemia) b. No bacteria isolated

- 3. Frontal bone: Simple, closed, non-displaced fracture w/ scant vascular reaction (most likely postmortem)
- 4. Uterus, horns: Papilliform exophytic serosal fibrous growths (incidental)
- 5. Vulva: Multiple exophytic growths with a fine stalk (papillomas; gross diagnosis)
- 6. Subcutis, abdomen: Subcutaneous edema, regionally extensive (likely related to sepsis/endotoxemia and/or recumbence)
- 7. Steptococcus sp, S. equinus, Lactobacillus spp isolated; small intestine, colon, cecum (likely terminal/incidental)
- 8. C. bifermentans, C. perfringens (not typed) isolated; small intestine, colon, cecum (likely terminal/incidental)
- 9. Negative C. perfringens and C. difficile toxins ELISA; small intestine, colon, cecum
- 10. No C. difficile detected; small intestine, colon, cecum
- 11. No Salmonella sp detected; liver, lymph node, small intestine, colon, cecum, peritoneum

12. No bacteria isolated; spleen

- 13. No parasite eggs/oocysts detected; feces
- 14. Unremarkable mineral concentrations; liver

Case Summary

02-08-21: Main necropsy finding in this elephant was a ruptured cecum, with release of contents to the abdominal cavity, and severe peritonitis. This was the most likely main contributor to this animal's death, most likely via endotoxemia/sepsis. A segment of colon adjacent to the cecum contained abundant and very compacted sand. This likely caused a degree of intestinal obstruction, colic, and acted as a predisposing factor for cecal rupture. We are doing histology (microscopic examination of selected tissue samples) and other diagnostic procedures to better characterize these findings and perhaps identify other disease processes. Results will be included in subsequent versions of this report. Please, do not hesitate to contact us if you have any question.

04-01-21: All testing has been completed. Histology confirmed severe damage to the cecal wall at the point of rupture/tearing and marked fibrinous peritonitis with vegetal material/gastrointestinal content. As anticipated in the preliminary report, this most likely lead to sepsis/endotoxemia and death. While removing the brain, a fracture in the surface of the frontal bone was noted. There was no much vascular reaction (i.e., hemorrhage/hematoma) associated with it or in other parts of the head, so this fracture likely occured either postmortem (perhaps while loading the carcass into the truck?) or shortly prior to death (perhaps the animal felt/hit herself when colicking or at the moment of death?). The rest of the gross and microscopic findings and laboratory test results are either related to sepsis/endotoxemia, unremarkable/non-diagnostic, or incidental. This concludes testing.

Clinical History

Duration of illness: 17 days

On 1/16, we began noticing some ventral edema on our female Afr. elephant, which had increased significantly by 1/17. We'd seen this before in **and the medical** history as well as other elephants in our care so we treated her homeopathically as we had in the past with the inclusion of cooked "coffee-grounds" in her daily grain as a diuretic. She responded well and the edema was reduced significantly within days as it remains today therefore that treatment has been discontinued.

1/19 was the morning after a renowned storm here in **the second storm**, with record rains, winds, mud-slides, emergency warnings, evacuation orders, etc... So it was a long and noisy night of wind and rain pelting their barn with constant sirens responding to mud slides and floods around the **second storm**. We found **second storm** in her night stall displaying her typical signs of colic that morning, holding one foot off the ground, lying down and getting up and refusing food and water ~ her typical signs of colic with one exception, she was passing normal stool. She had stool in her stall but not as much as normal however she had not eaten her normal diet either. **Second** has a long history of colic and being treated for it as she's always been a bit neurotic and anxious about any and all changes or abnormalities to her environment... We began our typical treatment of Banamine (30cc) twice daily along with attempts to give her grain/mineral oil as well as browse and exercise. This went on with sporadic positive results for two days, which again, is not uncommon for **second**. We continued to see stool in amounts expected based upon her minimal food consumption. The longest recovery I recall her having for colic was approx. 4-6 days with a large amount of gravel etc... in her stool when it finally passed. Her stool from the beginning of this episode remains clear and well formed.

Storm conditions required that both our elephants remain indoors for the following two days to assure their health-wellbeing and safety however, that is not a circumstance they are unfamiliar with.

On 1/21, we noticed the had chewed-up food (hay) that had been spit out on the floor of her stall. Not a lot but enough to be obvious of what it was. So we began thinking she could possibly be pushing a tooth and having trouble chewing or have an infection in it. We'd seen this behavior in the past with an elephant that had extreme food allergies which resulted in swelling of its throat ~ prohibiting swallowing ~ however that had no history of such nor did she have any other symptoms that we'd seen in the other elephant when this occurred (hives, swelling of other areas, etc...) When the did drink or eat, she seemed to swallow comfortably and there have been no changes to our hay source/supply.

Unfortunately, she refuses to allow us to get a good look at her teeth when she's feeling poor (for fear of our attempting to medicate, feed or water her...) therefore we've had limited ability to view the entire mouth however the two forward upper teeth sections we've been able to view and photograph seem normal. (See attached photo) We also sent blood work into the lab on this day for concern of her condition being more than just colic. (See attached lab results.) Lab results didn't seem to flag anything significant so we continued treatment for colic as she has had longer bouts of colic in the past. Continued sporadic positive results continued.

On 1/29, she just wasn't back to normal yet. We also noticed an elevated body temperature on this day of approx. 100.5. and decided to begin a course of antibiotics, 100cc Enroflox 100mg/ml daily along with the daily Banamine treatment. Again, her response remained sporadically positive, going on and off food, drinking approx. 10-20 gallons of water throughout the day and night. We sent another blood sample into the lab on this day to compare and continue to monitor. (See attached results of 1/30)

On 1/31, her temp was down to normal, 97-98F, and has remained so since however per the recommendations of which we are continuing the above drug protocol for a couple more days. She did begin presenting her teeth as normal of which we photographed however both and and felt there appeared to be no abnormalities or dental concerns visible.

2/1-2 continue to see increased appetite and water intake (17 gallons in one sitting last night) but only after a Banamine dose. Things were actually looking up. We did receive our first test results back from **Contract Contract Contract** (attached) to which **Contract Contract Cont**

onto the team and forwarded her all the attached information and info above. She first felt our Banamine treatments might be excessive in dose therefore she recommended discontinuing the Banamine and replacing it with a low dose of Butorphanol for pain. She also recommended treating with Omeprazole in the event her stomach was upset or ulcerated from the Banamine. I'll forward her email to you after this one so you can read her recommendations directly.

2/4/2021, we are unfortunately seeing moving a bit slower and refusing food and water therefore **actives** and **active** agreed a 40cc regiment of Dex might be beneficial. I am awaiting **actives** opinion on that. She also mentioned the use of Ursodiol on elephants for elephants with chronic GI issues however I've yet to discuss that further with her. All agreed to continue the antibiotic as well as discontinue the Banamine and get the pantoprazole on its way for tomorrow. That's where we're at today. Salmonella test results from the first sample are still pending with another sample going in today.

Today on 2/5/2021, we unfortunately found deceased in her night stall. There were no apparent signs of stress or struggle, she was found in her normal sleeping position deceased. Her body was removed from the barn and transported to CAHFS San Bernardino.

Addendum 02/06/2021: When was found in the morning she was on her left side. In addition rigor mortis had sent in. When we removed her from her stall her skin on her belly suffered some abrasions, this was postmortem. I noticed some what appeared to be milk coming from her mammary glands, while the glands were not engorged there was a small amount of milk being discharged.

Gross Observations

Necropsy of an adult, female African elephant began at 9.40 am, Saturday, February 06, 2021.

Carcass is in good nutritional condition, with ample fat reserves and well fleshed, mildly dehydrated, and in mild state of postmortem decomposition.

There are multifocal areas (~2-4 cm) of skin abrasion and ulceration in the caudal abdomen. Mammary glands ooze scant, viscous, milky fluid upon slight pressure. There is regionally extensive, moderate subcutaneous edema in the caudal region of the abdomen and inguinal area. Two 0.5-1 cm exophytic cutaneous growths with a fine stalk (papillomas) are detected in the vulva.

Approximately 10 L of turbid, yellowish to light red fluid with strands of yellowish and friable material (fibrin) and forage fragments (gastrointestinal contents) oozes from the abdominal cavity upon incision of the wall. Diffusely, gastrointestinal serosae, mesentery, and omentum are dark red in color, with multiple petechial hemorrhages, and firmly attached aggregates of fibrin and forage fragments. Stomach contains scant forage and whole grains within an abundant viscous matrix, and gastric mucosa is unremarkable. The mucosa of a ~1 m segment of jejunum is yellowish, and there are faint, slightly raised foci. Small intestine contains abundant, watery, yellowish digesta. There is a ~25 cm tear/rupture in the apical third of the cecal wall, with raised, thickened (~1 cm), firm, dark red borders, and regionally extensive hemorrhage with fibrin and forage attached to the adjacent cecal serosa. Cecal contents consist of long fragments of forage and scant fluid, and the cecal mucosa is grey to greenish and mildly edematous. A ~75 cm segment of colon immediately after the cecum contains abundant, gritty, very compacted sandy material with irregular stones, some fragments of forage, grain, and moderate amount of fluid. The remaining colonic contents consist of densely packed vegetal material, scant grain, and scant fluid, and the colonic mucosa is diffusely greyish. There are well formed feces in the rectum.

Splenic capsule is markedly thickened by firm aggregates of fibrin and forage, and there are multifocal to coalescing areas of dark red discoloration. Cut section of the liver reveals a marked lobular pattern. There are multiple, 0.3-1 cm, cauliflower-like, exophytic growths in the serosa of the uterine horns. Lungs are diffusely dark red and spongy. There are multiple petechiae in the epicardium.

All else is unremarkable.

Addendum (02-12-21): Brain removal and head examination

The skin of the forehead and poll is removed. An approximately 30 x 20 cm area in the surface of the frontal bone is sunken up to 5 cm by a closed, non-displaced, mildly comminuted fracture; the overlying subcutaneous tissue is mildly (~8 cm) blood tinged (probably postmortem). There are no abnormalities in the inner side of the frontal bone and sinuses. The brain is removed and there are no gross abnormalities to note. There is abundant pooled blood in the left side of the skull and sinuses (probably due to recumbence on that side). There are no other gross abnormalities to note in the rest of the structures of the head.

Bacteriology

2-12-21 MALDI-TOF Biotyper testing identified the isolate as Lactobacillus mucosae.

2-23-21 MALDI-TOF Biotyper testing identified Isolate #3 as Terrisporobacter glycolicus.

2-23-21 MALDI-TOF Biotyper testing identified Isolate #8 as Hungatella effluvii.

BACTERIAL AERO	BIC CULTURE			
Animal/Source	Specimen	Specimen Type	Results	
		Liver Swab	Streptococcus lutetiensis Mod#	
		Lung Swab	No growth after 48 hours	
		Splenic Swab	No growth after 48 hours	

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	- lymph node	Swab	Streptococcus equinus Rare# Mixed flora Rare#
		Small Intestinal Swab	Streptococcus equinus Mod# Pediococcus pentosaceus Mod#
		Cecal Swab	Streptococcus sp. Mod# Lactobacillus spp. Mod#
		Colon Swab	Streptococcus sp. Mod# Lactobacillus spp. Mod# Mixed flora Rare#
		Peritoneal Swab	Enterococcus faecium Mod# Mixed flora Rare#
	cecal tear	Swab	Streptococcus sp. Mod# Lactobacillus spp. Mod# Mixed flora Mod#
BACTERIAL ANAERO Animal/Source	BIC CULTURE Specimen	Specimen Type	Results
		Small Intestinal Swab	Clostridium bifermentans Mod# Mixed Flora Sm#
		Cecal Swab	Mixed Flora Mod# Clostridium perfringens Mod#
		Colon Swab	Mixed flora - No significant organisms Sm#
Biotyper Organism Id Animal/Source	entification Specimen	Specimen Type	Results
	Isolate #1	Bacterial Isolate, Liver	Streptococcus lutetiensis
	Isolate #2	Bacterial Isolate	Streptococcus equinus
	Isolate #3	Bacterial Isolate, Small Intestine	Pediococcus pentosaceus
	Isolate #4	Bacterial Isolate, Small Intestine	Streptococcus equinus
	Isolate #5	Bacterial Isolate, Cecum	Streptococcus sp.
	Isolate #6	Bacterial Isolate, Cecum	Lactobacillus spp.
			See Discipline Summary
	Isolate #7	Bacterial Isolate, Peritoneum	Enterococcus faecium
	Isolate #8	Bacterial Isolate	Streptococcus sp.
	Isolate #9	Bacterial Isolate	Lactobacillus spp. See Discipline Summary
			See Bioophile Saininary
	Isolate #10	Bacterial Isolate	No significant match found
	Isolate #10 ana Isol #3	Bacterial Isolate Bacterial Isolate, Cecum	No significant match found See Discipline Summary

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C, perfringens Toxins Animal/Source	ELISA Specimen	Specimen Ty	ре		
		Small Intestina Contents	al		
Analyte			Result		Units
Alpha toxin			alpha toxin neg	gative	
Beta toxin			beta toxin nega	ative	
Epsilon toxin		epsilon toxin negative			
C. perfringens			C. perfringens	positive	
		Cecal Content	ts		
Analyte			Result		Units
Alpha toxin			alpha toxin neg	gative	
Beta toxin			beta toxin nega	ative	
Epsilon toxin			epsilon toxin n	egative	
C. perfringens			C. perfringens	positive	
		Colon Conten	ts		
Analyte			Result		Units
Alpha toxin			alpha toxin neg	gative	
Beta toxin			beta toxin nega	ative	
Epsilon toxin			epsilon toxin n	egative	
C. perfringens			C. perfringens	negative	
C. difficile Toxins ELI Animal/Source	SA Specimen	Specimen Tv	pe	Results	
		Small Intestina Contents	al	Negative	
		Cecal Content	ts	Negative	
		Colon Conten	ts	Negative	
CLOSTRIDIUM DIFFIC Animal/Source	CILE CULTURE Specimen	Specimen Ty	ре	Results	
		Small Intestina	al Swab	No Clostridium difficile detected	
		Cecal Swab		No Clostridium difficile detected	
		Colon Swab		No Clostridium difficile detected	
SALMONELLA CULTURE - MAMMALIAN					
Animal/Source	Specimen	Specimen Ty	pe	Results	
		Liver Swab		No Salmonella sp. detected	
	- lymph node	Swab		No Salmonella sp. detected	
		Small Intestina	al Swab	No Salmonella sp. detected	
		Cecal Swab		No Salmonella sp. detected	
		Colon Swab		No Salmonella sp. detected	
		Peritoneal Sw	ab	No Salmonella sp. detected	
			Histology	,	

Sections from lung, liver, lymph nodes, mesenteric fat, adrenal gland, kidney, trachea, heart, spleen, haired skin, aorta, skeletal

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muscle, urinary bladder, mammary gland, skeletal muscle, tongue, stomach, small intestine, colon, cecum, uterus, and brain (frontal cortex, basal nuclei, parietal cortex, thalamus/hypothalamus, hippocampus, midbrain, cerebellum, and medulla) are examined with significant changes summarized:

SMALL INTESTINE/COLON/CECUM/MESENTERY

Diffusely, the intestinal serosae are expanded by a fibrillary eosinophilic material (fibrin) with neutrophils and karyorrhectic debris, colonies of coccobacilli and bacilli, and abundant vegetal material (gastrointestinal content); similar components are in the mesenteric fat (serositis and peritonitis). There is hemorrhage that dissects the adjacent external side of the muscular layer. In some sections, hemorrhage and fibrin tend to spread inwards the more inner muscular layers, even reaching the submucosa, which is expanded by clear spaces and dilated lymphatics (submucosal edema). In sections of cecum close to the borders of rupture, hemorrhage, necrosis, and neutrophilic inflammation transmurally affect the entire wall, and there is also fibrinoid necrosis of the vessels, with leukocytoclastic vasculitis, and rare thrombosis.

LUNG

There is diffuse and severe septal congestion, rare aggregates of intrascular fibrin, and macrophages with intracytoplasmic granular pigment associated with some airways (pneumoconiosis; incidental).

LIVER

There is marked centrilobular congestion. Diffusely, hepatocytes contain intracytoplasmic, light brown pigment. There are centrilobular and periportal aggregates of macrophages with dark brown intracytoplasmic pigment (hemosiderosis). There are scant aggregates of fibrin and bacteria overlying the capsule of some of the sections.

SPLEEN

The capsule is multifocally overlaid by fibrin, neutrophils, debris, and bacteria. There is prominent hemosiderosis.

LYMPH NODES

There are several lymph nodes with marked congestion

KIDNEY

There are multifocal groups of tubuli with intracytoplasmic, light brown granular pigment in the epithelium. Basement membranes are mildly thickened. There is mild thickening of the glomerular capsules by scant fibrous tissue. There is slight mineralization in the glomerular capsules and tubular basement membranes.

HAIRED SKIN

There is marked orthokeratotic hyperkeratotic with debris and abundant superficial coccoid bacteria.

UTERUS

There are pedunculated, papilliform outgrowths in the serosal layer composed of a core of dense collagen bundles.

Parasitology

Test Specific Comments

FECAL EXAM - FLOTATION

- * < 10 per slide in a concentration method is consistent with very few eggs present in the sample. >= 10 per slide in a concentration method is consistent with a notable presence of eggs in the sample.
- * Fecal flotation requires at least 1g to provide accurate results. It is a qualitative method that concentrates eggs present in the sample to maximize their detection. A Modified McMasters exam, which requires at least 3 g, is recommended for semi-quantitative information about the number of eggs present per gram of feces, which may aid in clinical assessment and treatment decisions. If <3 g is available, a flotation exam is performed.</p>

Animal/Source	Specimen	Specimen Type	Results
		Feces	No parasite eggs detected
		Toxicolog	у

Reporting Limit (Rep. Limit): The lowest routinely quantified concentration of an analyte in a sample. The analyte may be detected, but not quantified, at concentrations below the reporting limit. Sample volumes less than requested might result in reporting limits that are higher than those listed.

Note that we don't have established "normal" liver mineral ranges for this species. However, the detected concentrations are unremarkable.

HEAVY METAL SC Animal/Source	REEN Specimen		Specime	n Type				
			Liver Tiss	ue				
Analyte		Resul	t		Units	Rep. Limit	Units	
Arsenic		Not De	etected		ppm	1	ppm	
Cadmium		6.6			ppm	0.3	ppm	
Copper		5.7			ppm	0.3	ppm	
Iron		690			ppm	1	ppm	
Lead	janese		Not Detected 1.8		ppm ppm	1 0.1	ppm ppm	
Manganese								
Mercury		Not De	etected		ppm	1	ppm	
Molybdenum		2.8			ppm	0.4	ppm	
Zinc		43			ppm	0.3	ppm	
SELENIUM - TISSU	E/OTHER							Rep.
Animal/Source	Specimen		Specime	п Туре		Results	Units	Limit
			Liver Tiss	ue		0.66	ppm	0.020
				Pho	ne Lo	g		
Client Contact	<u>CAHFS C</u>	ontact	Date a	nd Time		<u>Subject</u>		
	Asin Ros,	Javier	2/6/21	2:00 pm		Preliminary necr	opsy results	

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