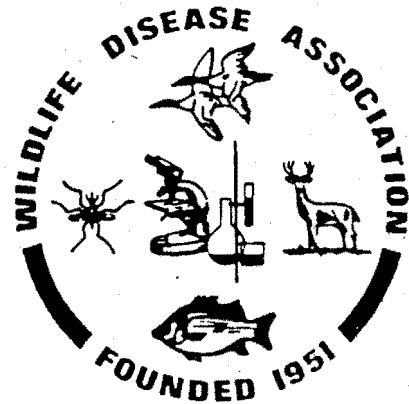


FIBRINOUS PNEUMONIA OF NEONATAL PINNAPEDS ASSOCIATED WITH β HEMOLYTIC E. COLI. Terry R. Spraker and Denise Bradley, Wildlife Pathology International, 2905 Stanford Road, Fort Collins, Colorado 80525, George Antonelis and Robert DeLong, National Marine Mammal Laboratory, 7200 Sand Point Way, NE, Seattle Washington 98115, Donald Calkins, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99518.

An acute fibrinopurulent pneumonia is found in Stellar sea lion (Eumetopias juatus), California sea lion (Zalophus californianus) and northern fur seal (Callorhinus ursinus) neonatal pups. These pups are usually in good body condition, but occasionally pups in poor condition also are found with pneumonia. The lungs are either unilaterally or bilaterally affected. Pneumonic lung is dark red, firm and edematous and occasionally covered with a thin layer of fibrin. On cut surface a red mucoid exudate can be expressed from cut bronchioli. Histologically alveolar spaces are dilated and filled with neutrophils, edema and fibrin. Alveolar capillaries are often congested and occasionally hemorrhage is found within pulmonary parenchyma. In 1,683 fur seal pups necropsied from 1986-1994 on the Pribilof Islands, 43 pups were found with this condition (0.03%). The animals with pneumonia were cultured and a β hemolytic E. coli was isolated. During the summer of 1994, 37 Steller sea lion pups were necropsied from southeast Alaska and one had pneumonia in which β hemolytic E. coli was isolated (0.03%). In 1992, 123 California sea lion pups were necropsied from San Miguel Island and pneumonia with associated β hemolytic E. coli was found in two (0.02%). Pathogenic strains of β hemolytic E. coli are associated with pneumonia and fulminating septicemia of newborn and young mammals. Most strains are host specific. A limited number of well-defined serotypes are closely associated with specific disease entities in an animal host. A variety of epizootiological factors and etiological agents other than E. coli can be present in the animal at the same time.

Proceedings Joint Conference

American Association of Zoo Veterinarians
Wildlife Disease Association
American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians



American
Association of
Wildlife Veterinarians
Founded - 1979

East Lansing, Michigan
August 12 - 17, 1995