

2003  
by

KAPOHO BOOK

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- DR. MORRIS

## REPORT ON 3 CAPTIVE GREEN TURTLES-KAPOHO HAWAII

On 3/18 and 3/19/03 physical exams were done and blood samples were taken on three turtles confined in private ponds at Kapoho, Hawaii. These turtles have been living in these separate ponds for over 20 years and are legally owned by the property owners. Permission was obtained from the owners to do the examination and sampling.

A summary of the veterinary findings is presented below.

### Turtle #1 "Albert"-Slim Holt Pond

This male turtle is being fed mostly papayas and dry dog food.

Weight 104 lbs

Straight carapace length 63.9 cm

### Physical exam:

The turtle appears obese with a soft area of approximately 19cm diameter on the plastron. No tumors were found. Other physical findings were normal.

### Blood results:

Elevated alkaline phosphatase, AST and low phosphorus values. Normal PCV and WBC.

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### Comments

This pond is somewhat restrictive in size when compared to the other two. The feeding of this turtle is dependent on one person with neighbors also feeding an unknown amount and type of food. The blood chemistry values are non-specific and could indicate muscle or liver problems possibly related to diet.

### Recommendations:

Have one person in charge of feeding. Eliminate papayas from the diet; decrease protein content of food (restrictive diet dog food) and more dark green leafy vegetables (turnip greens, kale, broccoli, bok-choy). Lettuce has little nutritional value. Better still, purchase and feed only commercial turtle food (reference given at end of report). I can also recommend wild release for the best insurance of good health and well being for "Albert".

### Turtle # 2 "Arthurena"-The Yunis family

This female turtle has not been eating for the past few weeks. The owners say this happens every year during the breeding season. The family cares for this turtle and usually feeds papayas and other vegetables and dry dog food.

Weight: too large to lift

Straight carapace length 84.3cm



Physical exam:

This turtle appeared in good flesh. The plastron was firm. No tumors were found. Other physical findings were normal.

Blood results:

There was an elevated alkaline phosphatase, AST and cholesterol. The CA/P ratio and glucose values were low. The hematocrit was low (anemia) and there was a reversal in the heterophil/lymphocyte ratio (infection?).

Comments:

This pond is of adequate size and has a gate direct to the sea. There were definite abnormal values in the blood work. The anemia, low blood sugar and reversal of lymphocyte/heterophils are of some concern. The history of another companion male turtle dying in January of 2000 must be noted. This turtle was found to have a goiter with fatty changes in multiple organs. A lack of a balanced diet may have led to these changes. Perhaps similar changes are taking place in this turtle. The fact that the turtle was fasting could affect some of the values.

Recommendations:

This turtle should receive a more balanced diet. Commercial turtle pellets with seaweed supplementation would be a good choice. Vitamin supplements placed in a piece of squid or fish might be helpful. Release is also an option.

Turtle # 3 "Sam"-Peggy Forges

The grounds keeper is feeding this male turtle. He gathers seaweed (type not determined) several times weekly and also feeds papayas.

Weight 126 pounds

Straight carapace length 69.4cm

Physical exam:

The turtle appeared in good flesh and did not have any tumors. A slight bulge was noted in the right eye but did not present any problems.

The other physical findings were normal.

Blood results:

There was an elevated alkaline phosphatase and AST and decreased phosphorus. The calcium levels were normal. Other values were in the normal range.



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Recommendations:

The pond is of adequate size. The seaweed supplementation is good for the turtle. The type of seaweed should be determined because certain types may be detrimental to the turtle's health. I would stop the papaya diet and supplement with dark green leafy vegetables (not lettuce). A commercial turtle pellet would be excellent. It should be noted that the feeding program is highly dependent on the yardman and his efforts to gather seaweed. Release is an option.

Footnote:

The significance in variation of some of the blood values in green turtles is unknown. It is not as an exact science in reptiles as it is in mammals. Many factors such as water temperature, sex, diet, and location sampled and time of year can affect the results. I have used some of our blood results from normal wild turtle to compare values with the pond turtles and made deductions from this. AST and alkaline phosphatase elevations can indicate liver or muscle pathology.

A good option for the turtle owners would be to get together and order dried commercial turtle food. Vitamin supplementation is recommended if this is not done. The address is furnished below.

Melick Aquafeed

139 South First Street

Catawissa, Pennsylvania 17820

Phone: 1 800 358-6595

Price is approx. \$14/50 lb. bag plus shipping for turtle finisher pellets.


*Robert A. Morris*

Robert A. Morris, DVM

Makai Animal Clinic

420 Uluni Street

Kailua, HI 96734



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On March 27  
missed by m  
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The joy and  
beat strong



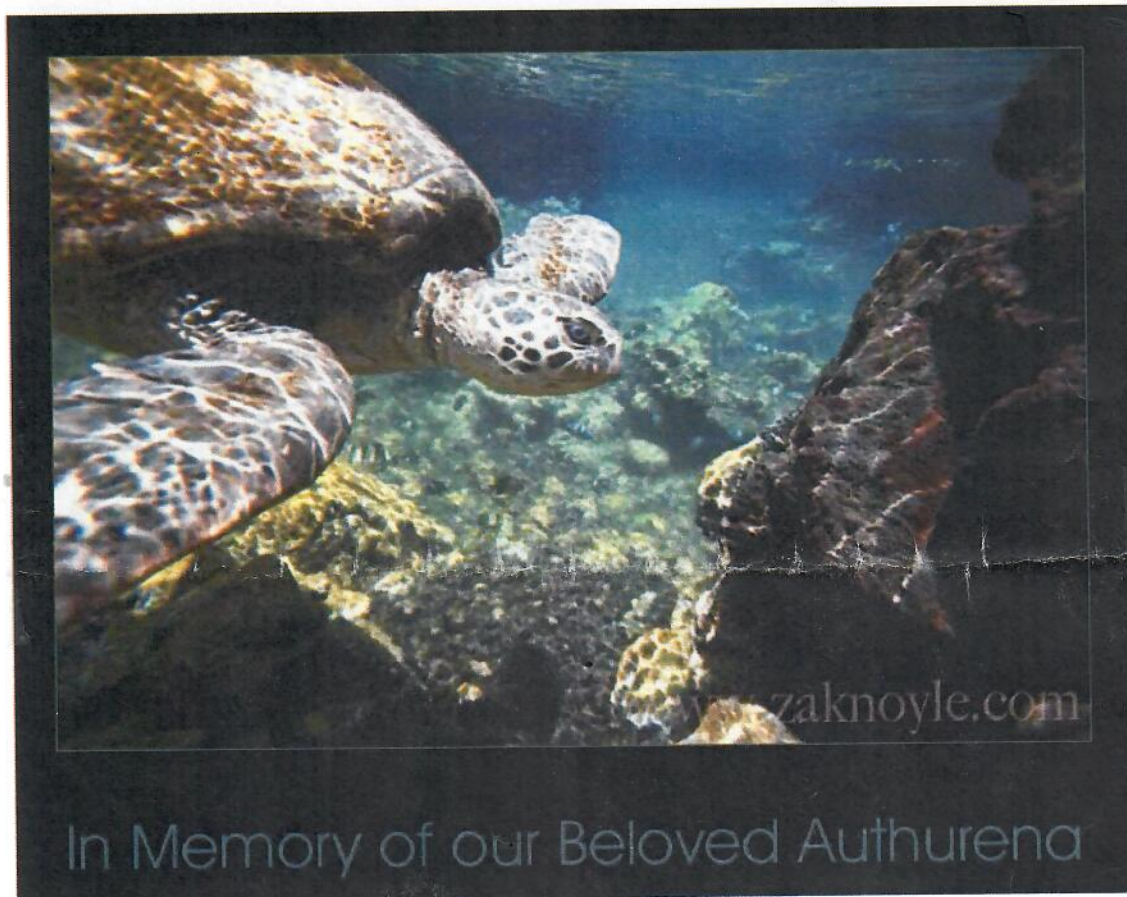
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Kapoho

Green Sea Turtle - 80-Year-Old - 400 Pound Tagged & Protected  
Kopoho Bay The Big Island of Hawaii

Lynette  
Yunis

In Memory of Arthurena



On March 27, 2008 our beloved sea turtle Arthurena passed away. She will be missed by many people, especially us. She had a long and protected life. Her friendliness and beautiful grace of movement will forever remain vivid in our minds. The joy and love she brought to our hearts with her visits to us humans continues to beat strong and the memory of her shall never fade

**Arthurena - Green Sea Turtle**  
**Kopoho Bay Geothermal Ponds**  
**Oceanfront Kapoho Paradise Hawai'i Vacation Rental**  
**Guests Swim and Snorkel With The Fish & Turtles**





click on photo above to see full sized image

**Gentle & Noble Herbavore**  
**Gracious 80 Year Old 400 Pound**  
**Protected & Tagged Sea Turtle**

**Experience The**  
**Vacation Of A Lifetime!**  
On Kapoho Bay the ocean is warm,  
clear, clean and sparkling blue.

**Come... swim with the tropical fish**  
**and family of sea turtles!**



Arthurena's ancestors evolved on land,  
then around 150 million years ago  
they returned to the sea to live.





[click on photo above to see full sized image](#)

### Green Sea Turtles

Named for the color of their skin, these gentle giants are herbivores and come by their color from the fatty tissue which is green from the algae or limu (sea lettuce) they eat.

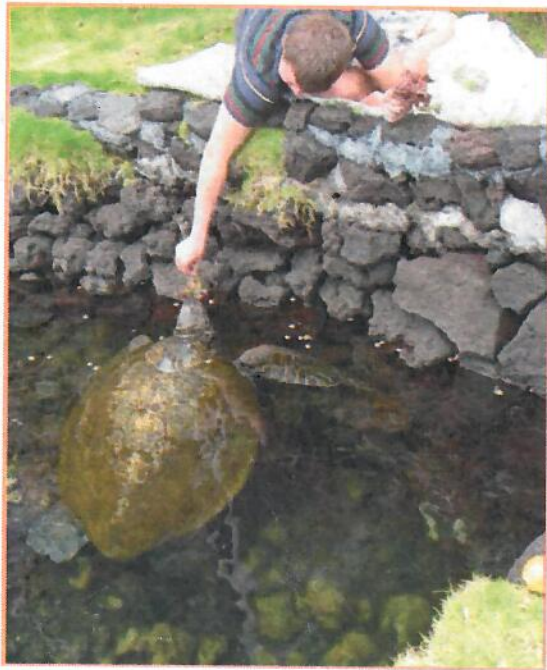
Click on many of the photos below to see huge full sized images of Arthurena the 80 year-old, 400 pound green sea turtle and gracious lady whom has shared the ponds for more than 40 years.

Please note for the safety of our guests and our resident turtle, swimming in her pond is not permitted. (Arthurena is registered and protected by the state of Hawaii). There is great swimming/snorkeling from our property however, with sea turtles and tropical fish in Champagne Pond and the ocean.





[click on photo above to see full sized image](#)



[click on photo above  
to visit our Guest Book Excerpts](#)

*need*

Vacation of a Lifetime



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Green Sea Turtle Autherena Oceanfront Rental Snork...

<http://hawaiiwego.com/kapoho-vacation>

*Dear Muhammad, Hi, I don't know if you remember me, but ...the young man in the pictures is my son, Shane. He was absolutely crazy about the fact that we had this beautiful creature to care for right in the back yard during our stay.*

*I know I said it before, but I really do want to thank you again for sharing such an amazing place on earth with others! I will never forget such a wonderful experience.*

*I hope to one day return and stay at your home again. K.Housty*



click on photo above to see full sized image