

Luck runs out for 'Piggy Bank'

SCMP 3/22/2017



A sea turtle nicknamed "Piggy Bank" has died after complications from surgery to remove nearly 1,000 coins she swallowed during captivity, Thai vets said yesterday.

The reptile was thought to be recovering well from the pioneering seven-hour operation earlier this month to remove 5kg of coins (above) lodged in her digestive tract—good-luck pennies tossed into the pool she was kept in. But she took a sudden turn for the worse over the weekend, developing blood

poisoning from serious intestinal problems after the coins were removed. Her plight raised questions over the collision of traditional beliefs in good luck and animal welfare.

The turtle lived for two decades in a small pond in a public park in Chonburi Province. Visitors tossed coins into her pond seeking to "make merit". Vets hope the coverage of the stricken creature will make Thais think twice about throwing coins into ponds where animals live. Photos: AP, Reuters