

DIAGNOSTIC CASE REPORT

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY-BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL WILDLIFE HEALTH CENTER-HONOLULU FIELD STATION
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Case Number: 21125

Submitter Name:

Mr. Jeff Pawloski
Sea Life Park
41-202 Kalaniana'ole Hwy Suite 7
Waimanalo, Hawaii 96795
United States

Species submitted (n):

Turtle: Green (1)

Location:	Sea Life Park	DateCollected:	06/27/2008
Area:	Honolulu	DateSubmitted:	6/27/2008
State:	Hawaii	DateReceived:	6/27/2008
Country:	United States	DateExamined:	6/27/2008

SPECIMENS SUBMITTED: Carcass-Chilled

History: This turtle was found dead in the ponds at Sea Life Park.

Findings: This was a adult female in fair body condition. Significant gross lesions included inflammation of the liver, and severe obstruction and dilation of the large intestines with coconut fibers, bamboo leaves, and gravel. Microscopy revealed inflammation of the liver associated with bacteria and severe bleeding and inflammation of the large intestinal mucosa.

Final diagnosis: Accession 1-Constipation.

Comments: This animal died from chronic severe constipation and secondary bacterial infections brought about by ingestion of large amounts of coconut fibers, rocks, and bamboo leaves. The presence of undigested material in the distal intestines indicates that these kinds of plant material are inappropriate forage for green turtles and that their ingestion can lead to intestinal complications.

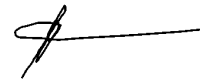
Management: Prevent access to inappropriate foods. Note this has occurred once before in adult turtles from Sea Life Park.

Report Date (mm/dd/yyyy): 9/9/2008

Necropsy report: Available upon request

Copies of this report sent to:

Mr. George Balazs (NOAA)



If you have questions regarding this case, contact Thierry M. Work MS, DVM, MPVM at 808-792-9520. Include above Case Number. Diagnostic findings may not be used for publication without the pathologist's knowledge and consent.

NOTE: Information in this report supersedes any information from previous reports regarding this case