



NATIONAL WILDLIFE HEALTH CENTER

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DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES CASE REPORT

Case: 28975

Final Report

11/16/2018

Epizoo:

Legal ☐ Declassified ☐ INV#:

Submitter:

Paul Super
Great Smoky Mountains NP/Lake Junaluska
P.O. Box 357
Lake Junaluska, NC 28721

Date Submitted: 11/7/2018

Specimen description/Identification/Location:

ACC	SPECIES	SPECIMEN TYPE	BAND NUMBER	SUBMITTER'S ID	COUNTY	STATE
001	Rabbit, Eastern Cottontail	CARCASS			Haywood	NC

Diagnosis:

- Fracture of left front leg
- Emaciation
- Intestinal nematodiasis
- Intestinal coccidiosis
- Intestinal cestodiasis

Event History:

One cottontail rabbit (presumably *Sylvilagus floridanus*) was found dead on 10/17/18 next to the porch of a field station in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. It was found on a maintained lawn, partially under a low deck, with no evidence of trauma. There are no hunting or agricultural activities on site. Rabbit populations have been notably down since early Summer. Local environmental conditions include daytime highs around 20C, but lows approaching freezing at night two days prior to finding the carcass. There was 6.0 mm rain overnight with a low of 10C on the night before specimen was found.

Comment:

This adult male Cottontail Rabbit was emaciated. There was an acute fracture of the left front leg at the elbow joint. Large numbers of intestinal parasites were present, including nematodes (*Strongylida*, *Vexillata* sp., *Oxyurida*, and *Trichuris* sp.), *Coccidia* sp. and cestodes (*Cittotaenia* sp.). The heavy intestinal parasite burden may have contributed to the emaciated state of this animal. No other significant abnormalities were present.

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Valerie I. Shearn-Bochsler

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The USGS-National Wildlife Health Center conducts wildlife disease investigations with state, federal and tribal partners, and we welcome collaborative dissemination of this information (e.g., publication, press release, technical report, etc.). Please contact the pathologist or wildlife disease epidemiologist assigned to this case to ensure that information is accurately interpreted and appropriately credited.

Copies To:

NPS DIAGNOSTICS

Biol Resource Mgmt Div/Ft Collins-NPS, 1201 Oak Ridge Drive, Suite 200, Fort Collins, CO 80525

This is a Report for your submission to the National Wildlife Health Center.

For consultation regarding diagnostic findings or laboratory testing and results, please contact the pathologist. Contact information can be found underneath the signature line on this report.

For consultation on the significance of this disease to wildlife populations in your area, assistance with disease control and response, or to report field updates (numbers and species affected, geographical distribution, end date, etc.), please contact an NWHC epidemiologist at NWHC-epi@usgs.gov or 608-270-2480.