

POSTER 110

REPORT OF BILATERAL OCULAR LESIONS ASSOCIATED WITH *PROTEUS* IN A GIANT PETREL (*MACRONECTES HALLI*) IN SOUTHERN BRAZIL

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A young Giant Petrel *Macronectes halli* was presented with a history of prostrations and inability to fly at the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center (CETAS) in Florianópolis, southern Brazil. Days after hospitalization, this marine bird presented bilateral opacity of the cornea and inability to see. Fluorescein coloration and an ophthalmologic evaluation showed no ulcer present at this time. Treatment with ocular ointments containing cloranfenicol showed no effect reducing the corneal opacity. Infectious signs and secretion increased, reaching corneal rupture and loss of ocular tissue after weeks of treatment. The animal was kept for three months in captivity in order to attempt to control eye infection and reestablish the capacity of the bird to see, fly and capture his own prey, all obligatory conditions to reintroduce the bird to its natural environment. Unfortunately, the poor prognosis lead to the long term maintenance of the animal in captivity, resulting in injuries to its breast bone (sternum) and feet, due to prostration. This condition was aggravated especially because this species naturally spend most of its time flying over the ocean and not landing in firm ground. Despite the fact that the animal was not losing weight in captivity, the impossibility to release this bird back to the wild lead the CETAS Veterinary Medicine Team to decide to euthanize the bird. After this procedure a detailed necropsy was performed and swabs of the cornea and eye bulbs were collected. Microbiologic exams yielded pure cultures of *Proteus*. The animal was sent to a museum collection.