



THE 31ST MEETING OF THE
EUROPEAN SOCIETY & COLLEGE
OF VETERINARY PATHOLOGISTS
LONDON 2013

**31st Meeting of the
European Society of Veterinary Pathology**

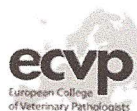
and the

European College of Veterinary Pathologists

4th – 7th September 2013

Programme

**The Institute of Education
University of London
London, UK**



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ABSTRACT CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the abstract titled:

OTOLITHIASIS IN AFRICAN LIONS (*Panthera leo*)

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was presented at the

31st Annual Meeting of the European Society of Veterinary Pathology

and

The European College of Veterinary Pathologists

4th – 7th September 2013
London, United Kingdom

Ken Smith
Chairman of the Local Organising Committee





Poster Abstracts Wildlife

PL-138

OTOLITHIASIS IN AFRICAN LIONS (*Panthera leo*)

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Introduction: Otoliths are osseous concretions found in the middle ear. They have been described in dogs associated with otitis media and vestibular disease but also as incidental findings. They have not been recorded in cats and others felines (Paterson & Tobias 2013). The aim of this study was to describe otolithiasis in captive African lions.

Materials and Methods: five skulls from deceased adult African lions (three males and two females), donated to the Museum of Anatomy of the Department of Comparative Anatomy and Pathology of the University of Córdoba, were used for radiographic (X-ray), computerized tomography (CT), gross and histopathology study.

Results: X-ray study of the 5 skulls revealed mineralized structures compatible with middle ear otoliths in 4 ears; a further CT scan evidenced that middle ear otoliths were present in 7 of the 10 ears examined. Grossly, they appeared as rounded or spicular bone-like structures attached to the tympanic bullae walls, variable in number and size. Microscopically, otoliths were composed by a matrix of cancellous bone which was continuous with the tympanic bulla bone.

Conclusions: Postmortem unilateral or bilateral otolithiasis was incidentally observed in the majority of the captive lion studied. CT scanning provided better diagnostic sensitivity than radiography. Otoliths were composed of mature osteoid tissue produced from the bone lining the tympanic bulla.

