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Postmortem report for “Luna” Bell

INTERPRETATION:

Blunt force thoracic trauma with pneumo- and haemothorax

MACROSCOPIC PATHOLOGY

1. The carcass is that of a spayed female grey adult domestic shorthair in good body condition that is partially frozen, but minimally autolysed. Postmortem performed at TAH Rosmead on the afternoon of 25th September 2024.
2. External examination shows an extensive fractured/shattered mandible as well as shattered teeth, but with minimal bleeding or haematoma development. Small superficial 1cm excoriation was noted on the left upper lip. No other obvious external abnormalities are noted. No sign of subcutaneous bruising or bone fractures.
3. The thoracic cavity shows loss of negative pressure. There is severe haemothorax development with fresh blood as well as clotted blood in the pleural cavity. The craniodorsal mediastinum is torn off the dorsal portion of the thorax with visible vertebral arteries ramifying from the aorta. Lungs are collapsed bilaterally (pneumothorax and haemothorax).
4. The contents of the abdominal cavity are intact, but there is mild to moderate haemorrhage within the peritoneum.
5. The liver shows mildly accentuated lobulation.
6. The stomach contains soaked kibble.
7. The spleen is small and contracted.
8. No other pathology is noted in the remaining organs.

COMMENT

Luna's postmortem confirms blunt force trauma to the thorax. This resulted in shearing injury to the mediastinum and lungs causing severe haemorrhage. The lungs were atelectatic (collapsed) due to the presence of both blood (haemothorax) and air (pneumothorax). Death was acute, but unfortunately, I cannot determine the exact nature of the injury other than blunt force trauma. The most common causes encountered are motor vehicle accidents, trauma caused by objects such as bats or pipes etc. Kicking could also be possible. Correlation with history and witness statements will be essential.

There are some secondary changes. The mandible was fracture and there were also several shattered teeth. This was not associated with significant haemorrhage, so I suspect these changes were postmortem. Again, this was likely due to blunt trauma such as a motor vehicle tire, but this would need to be corroborated with witness statements.

Your sincerely

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