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SARCOCYSTIS IN THE NORTHERN FUR SEAL

RICHARD J. BROWN,[1] ALVIN W. SMITH[2] and MARK C. KEYES[3]

A special investigation of the diseases of the northern fur seal, *Callorhinus ursinus*, was conducted by the Naval Biological Research Laboratory in cooperation with National Marine Fisheries Service in the summer of 1972.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Using standard histological techniques numerous sarcosporidial cysts were found in the masseter muscle of one adolescent male fur seal among a group of 30 pups and two adults surveyed on St. Paul Island in the Pribilof Islands, Alaska.

The diaphram and abdominal muscles of the same animal did not reveal any additional cysts. These cysts closely resembled the sarcosporidia seen in other animals. There was no tissue reaction around the intact cysts and no ruptured cysts were identified.

Sarcosystis has been recorded occasionally in man[2] and is ubiquitous in domestic and wild animals.[1] The authors are unaware of any previously reported cases of *Sarcyocystis* in marine mammals.

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Opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force or the U.S. Dept. of Commerce.

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