



Colorado Parks and
Wildlife
Wildlife Health Lab
317 W Prospect Rd
Fort Collins, CO 80526

WHL # 19 93
Animal ID: n/a

Submitted By: Jason Surface
Necropsy Date: 2/4/2019

Species: Mountain lion (*Puma concolor*)
Age: 3-4 months Sex: unk

NECROPSY SUMMARY:

The mountain lion involved in the Horsetooth Mountain attack was necropsied the evening of Monday, Feb 4th following the attack. The mountain lion was estimated to be approximately 4-5 months old based on tooth eruption. The weight at necropsy was 24 lbs, although the estimated weight of the full carcass prior to scavenging was 35-40 lbs. The mountain lion was likely male based on the lack of female organs (no uterus or ovaries present) although the region of the external genitalia was too scavenged to confirm as male. Necropsy findings supported the description of events given by the victim. Findings included blunt trauma to the head and petechial hemorrhages in the region of the larynx and trachea. The cause of death was determined to be multifactorial including blunt trauma and strangulation. The carcass was heavily scavenged, and blood staining of the scavenged tissues suggested the scavenging took place perimortem. The pattern of scavenging was consistent with feline predation and at least one post-mortem bite mark matched the intercanine distance of the lower canines of the carcass examined. There was no evidence of underlying disease in the tissues examined, although most of the internal organs were absent (scavenged). Limited fat reserves in the carcass suggested the mountain lion was hungry but not starving. Rabies testing was negative.

Karen Fox, DVM, PhD, DACVP