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Edward J. Fritz, DVM

RE: Frankie

On August 27th, 2015, I received the remains of Frankie, a tiger tabby cat. A request was made to do a forensic examination of his body with photographs and radiographs to try and determine proximate cause of death. The victim had been buried in a cardboard container approximately two feet deep for one week prior to exhumation and transport to 1333 Hwy 174, Colfax, CA.

The body was in an advancing state of decomposition with a large population of 3rd instar maggots present. The body was in generally good shape and adequate weight. There was skin slippage and adipocere forming. No injury was seen to toe nails or overt fractures to any long bones. There was a large laceration in mid caudal-ventral abdomen and associated evisceration of small bowel loops and fat. There was no apparent trauma to the bowel loops in spite of maggot activity. There was a palpable separation of deep tissue of the tail approximately one third of its length distal to the pelvis.

Microchip#: 981020003367853 and 443355487F

Radiographs:

Full body radiographs showed two microchips present. No fractures were apparent on body trunk, including ribs, or visible long bones, pelvis, or skull.

Focal radiographs of:

Head and Neck showed no evidence of trauma.

Pelvis showed a fracture of the right pelvic acetabulum (socket) with minimal

displacement. Tail showed a mid-body fracture of approximately cy 9 vertebrae

Based on these findings, the most consistent proximate cause of death would be blunt force trauma resulting in abdominal laceration and evisceration of bowel loops with probable shock. The fractures, while significant, would most likely not directly contribute to death. Considering the location of the body, being run over by a vehicle, which could include a bicycle, is the most likely source for this type of trauma.

Sincerely,



Edward J Fritz, DVM