

printer friendly format sponsored by:
The New Media Department of The Post and
Courier

THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2006 12:00 AM

Aquarium river otter, Murray, dies after exam

Staff report

Murray, a 2-year-old river otter at the South Carolina Aquarium, died Wednesday after a routine physical examination and check-up.

Preliminary findings are inconclusive, but the presence of fluid in the lungs suggests that Murray suffered an allergic reaction to a vaccine, aquarium officials said.

"We are all deeply saddened by this loss," said Jason Crichton, the aquarium's director of husbandry and facilities. "Murray was like a family member to our staff and volunteers and he will be greatly missed."

Murray underwent a complete physical exam at a local animal hospital, where he was anesthetized and received standard vaccines for distemper and rabies. On the return trip to the aquarium, the aquarium's consulting veterinarian noticed Murray's breathing was labored and immediately performed CPR. Murray was taken back to the hospital but didn't recover.

A complete necropsy will be performed at Clemson's Veterinary Diagnostic Center. Results should be available in about a week.

This article was printed via the web on 5/18/2006 8:06:27 PM . This article appeared in The Post and Courier and updated online at Charleston.net on Thursday, May 18, 2006.