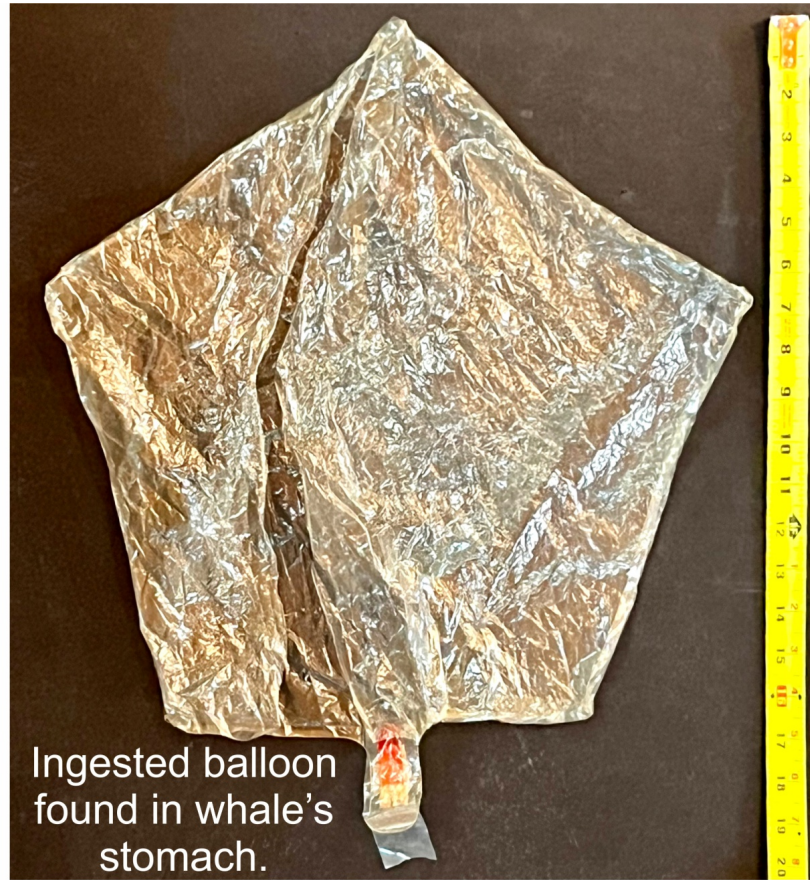


Live-stranded Gervais' beaked whale had balloon in stomach



Ingested balloon found in whale's stomach.

Before purchasing balloons to commemorate important life events or loved ones, please consider using biodegradable alternatives instead such as lighting a candle and/or scattering flower petals. Please encourage others to do same. Marine wildlife thanks you.

<https://bonehenge.org/>



balloon example

On October 30, 2023 a 10' 9" young female Gervais' beaked whale stranded alive on the beach of Emerald Isle, NC. A necropsy revealed an ingested balloon in the stomach that had blocked the GI tract. There was milk in the stomach, and no prey items. She was still nursing.