



**PATIENT**

Pepper Geller

**SPECIES**

Canine

**BREED**

Maltese

**SEX**

Female Spayed

**AGE**

13 years

**WEIGHT**

5.01lbs

**INTERPRETED BY**

Maggie Machen Lamy,  
DVM, DACVIM  
(Cardiology)

**IMAGING PERFORMED BY**

Loetitia St-Jacques,  
LVT/RVT

**HOSPITAL NAME**

Sierra Veterinary  
Hospital of Carson  
City

**REFERRING VET**

NP

**INVOICE**

28683

**DATE**

1/31/23

**PRESENTING CLINICAL SIGNS**

History: Coughing for several weeks. Grade 4/6 left side heart murmur. Coughing/dyspnea throughout the study; standing echo performed.  
-Radiographs: Mild left-sided cardiomegaly. Mild to moderate diffuse bronchointerstitial pattern, lungs. Narrowing of principal bronchi. The trachea is unremarkable.  
-Current medications: Hydrocodone Homatropine Syrup 5mg/5ml.

**ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHIC FINDINGS**

A six lead ECG is available at 50mm/s; 20mm/mV. The average heart rate is 120bpm (range 85-150bpm). The rhythm is sinus in origin, with a p for every QRS complex and vice versa. The P wave morphology is positive with a normal dimension. Normal PR. The QRS morphology is positive with normal dimension. MEA is normal. No ectopic beats, pauses or dysrhythmias observed.

ECG diagnosis: Normal sinus rhythm with respiratory variation.

**ECHOCARDIOGRAM FINDINGS**

2D, m-mode and Doppler imaging are available. Diffuse thickening of mitral valve leaflets (anterior > posterior) with prolapse into the left atrial lumen. Possible ruptured chordae tendineae visualized. Severe eccentric mitral regurgitation with severe left atrial dilation. Severe LV dilation with hyperdynamic myocardial function. The tricuspid valve appears mildly thickened, with mild tricuspid regurgitation. Velocity consistent with moderate pulmonary hypertension. Mild right atrial and ventricular dilation consistent with early pulmonary arterial hypertension. The pulmonic and aortic valves are normal in morphology and mobility. Normal pulmonic and aortic outflow velocities. No pulmonic or aortic insufficiency. No pericardial or pleural effusion noted. No cardiac tumors observed. Early vasculature congestion suspected.

**CARDIAC CHART**

CANINE CARDIAC PARAMETERS	MR VMAX (m/s)	TR VMAX (m/s)	LA/AO (Boon method)	LA/AO (Heart Base; Swe)	FS (%)	EF (%)	EPSS (cm)
NORMAL PARAMETER	4.5-5.5	<2.7	1.3	<1.6	28-40	40-100	<0.6
PATIENT	4.5	4.0	NM	2.5	47	90	NM
CANINE CARDIAC PARAMETERS	HR (BPM)	AV VMAX (m/s)	PV MAX (m/s)	BODY WEIGHT (kg)	LA 2D short axis Base view (cm)	LVIDd Avg; 2D and m-mode short axis (cm)	LVIDs Avg; 2D and m-mode short axis (cm)
NORMAL PARAMETER	50-100	0.7-1.7	0.7-1.6	BELOW	BELOW	BELOW	BELOW
PATIENT	138			2.3	2.7	3.8	2.0
*Normal chamber parameters expressed as a mean value (SD)				3	1.27 (5.3)	2.46 (2.46)	1.36 (5.5)
<b>BODY WEIGHT DEPENDENT PARAMETERS</b>				5	1.40 (4.5)	2.74 (5.2)	1.60 (4.7)
<i>*Note: All measurements based upon multi-modal images and methods. An average value is reported.</i>				10	1.50 (3.8)	3.27 (3.5)	2.06 (3.1)
				15	1.83 (2.0)	3.71 (2.4)	2.43 (2.1)
				20	2.02 (1.9)	4.14 (2.2)	2.80 (2.0)
				25	2.18 (2.4)	4.48 (2.9)	3.10 (2.5)
				30	2.33 (3.3)	4.83 (3.9)	3.39 (3.4)
				35	2.48 (4.3)	5.17 (5.0)	3.69 (4.5)
				40	2.62 (5.2)	5.48 (6.1)	3.96 (5.4)

Adapted from June Boon, Veterinary Echocardiography, 1998  
Rishniw M and Hollis NE, J Vet Intern Med 2000; 14:429-435  
Hansson et al, Vet Rad and Ultrasound 2002  
Bonagura et al. Echocardiography: principles of interpretation, Vet Clin North Am 15:1177, 1995



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	50	2.88 (7.1)	6.07 (8.3)	4.46 (7.4)
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**INTERPRETATION OF THE FINDINGS & FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS**

The cause of the murmur is chronic degenerative valve disease causing severe mitral and mild tricuspid regurgitation. Severe left atrial enlargement indicates the risk for spontaneous congestive heart failure is elevated. Mild TR is also noted, with moderate pulmonary hypertension. This is likely secondary to a combination of elevated LA pressure and primary respiratory disease. A ruptured chord is suspected, which is likely a chronic issue, given no acute decompensation or syncope. No additional issues are identified and the ECG is unremarkable with a normal sinus rhythm.

The described cough is likely multi-factorial in origin, including a mechanical component due to cardiomegaly, possible concurrent airway disease and/or early CHF given the severity of disease. Even without reported CHF on films, given what is seen here full lifelong cardiac support is recommended as below including Lasix therapy. Sildenafil is not clearly warranted without signs of pulmonary hypertension, such as exertional syncope. That being said, this can be added in the future if any changes arise. Depending on clinical response to the medications, cough suppression may also be useful. Monitoring of sleeping breathing rates in the future will be paramount to determine the origin of any future cough. The average survival of canine patients with active pulmonary edema is 8-9 months on medications, however they generally are able to maintain a good quality of life for that period. Patient will always be at risk for recurrent CHF, development of arrhythmias/LA tear, syncope and/or sudden death in the future. Monitoring of renal values is recommended lifelong.

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Omega fatty acid supplementation and mild salt restriction may also be of some long term benefit. Monitor for development of a worsening cough, labored breathing, exercise intolerance or collapse episodes.

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**PLAN**

Screening BP is recommended. Administer Pimobendan 0.3mg/kg PO q12h. Administer low dose furosemide/Lasix 1 mg/kg PO q12h. Administer spironolactone 1-2mg/kg PO q12h. Continue hydrocodone with homatropine (0.2-0.4mg/kg PO up to q4-6 hours PRN) if cough persists despite normal SRRs.

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A renal panel and BP are recommended in 10-14 days, then every 3-4 months on diuretics to ensure tolerance of medications. If doing well at that time and BP >130mmHg, institute ACEI 0.5mg/kg PO q12h.

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A recheck echocardiogram is recommended in 6 months to screen for progression, sooner if clinical signs arise/persist.

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Portable Animal Western Sonography, Inc.

IMAGING PERFORMED BY

pawsonography@gmail.com 530-786-8340

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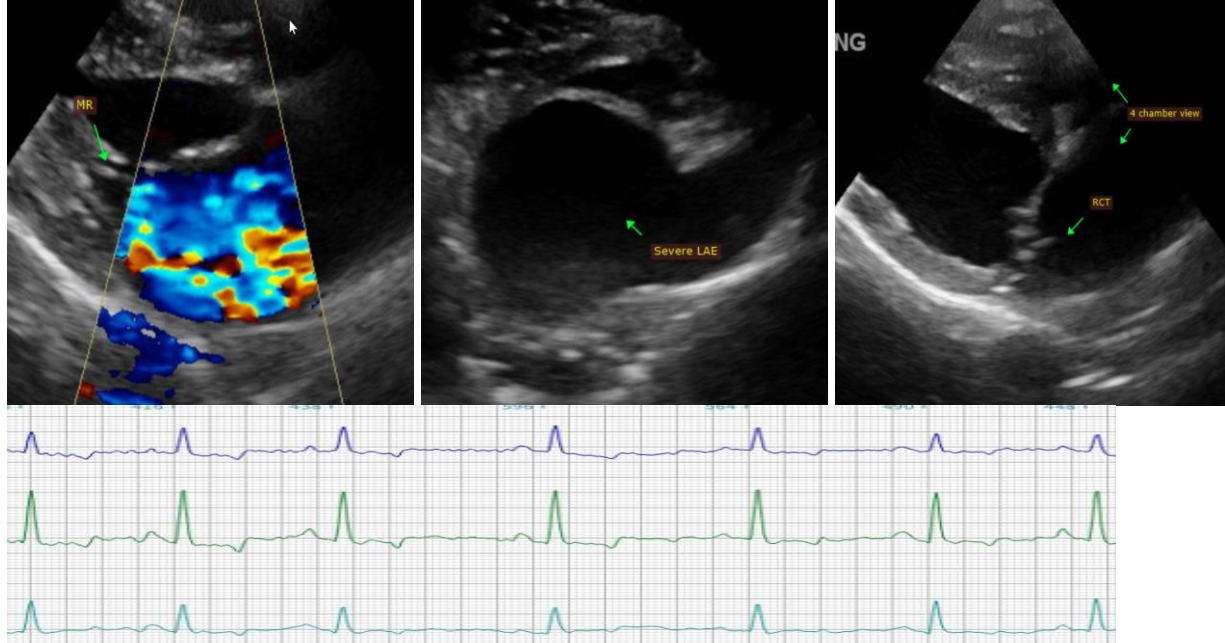
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**IMAGES**



The information and recommendations provided are based on the images presented by the referring veterinarian. No evaluation can be communicated regarding pathology that was not visible in the image/video clips provided.

Thank you for this referral. This report was generated using transcription software, and minor dictation errors may be present. If the clinical or image interpretation does not parallel your findings or if I can be of any further assistance, please contact me.

**Maggie Machen Lamy, DVM**  
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