



PRESENTING CLINICAL SIGNS

DATE History: Presented on 1/4/22 for abdominal distension and lethargy. Treated for HW disease in October 2021. Pericardial effusion detected – pericardiocentesis removed ~100 ml of hemorrhagic fluid.
1/7/22

ECHOCARDIOGRAPHIC FINDINGS

PERFORMED BY: 2D, M-mode, and Doppler study.

Dr. Ferrer

INTERPRETED BY

Keith Blass, DVM,
MS, DACVIM
(Cardiology)

Left atrial size is normal. The mitral valve leaflets are mildly thickened, and a mild jet of mitral regurgitation is present. Left ventricular dimensions are normal. Left ventricular systolic function measures slightly below the lower limit of the normal reference interval. The aorta and aortic valve appear normal, though trace aortic insufficiency is present. Right atrial and right ventricular dimensions are normal. The tricuspid valve leaflets are mildly thickened, and a mild jet of tricuspid regurgitation is present. TR velocity does not suggest the presence of pulmonary hypertension. The pulmonary artery and pulmonic valve appear normal, though trace pulmonic insufficiency is present. No shunting lesions are visualized. No heartworms are visualized. Trace pericardial effusion is present. No cardiac masses are seen.

PATIENT

Can Kornie Unidad
Canina Policia de PR

ECG during echo: Sinus arrhythmia

SPECIES

Canine

LA – 44.7 mm
LVIDd – 45.4 mm
LVIDs – 34.9 mm
FS – 23%
RA – 34.4 mm
LVOT – 0.86 m/s
RVOT – 0.96 m/s
TR – 1.63 m/s

BREED

Belgian Malinois

ASSESSMENT/RECOMMENDATIONS

SEX

MI

This examination demonstrates trace residual pericardial effusion following the pericardiocentesis procedure performed a few days ago. No obvious reason for the pericardial effusion is seen in the image set. The two most common causes of pericardial effusion in dogs include cardiac neoplasia and idiopathic effusion, with other causes, such as infectious effusion and effusion secondary to systemic disease, being very rare. While no evidence of neoplasia is seen in this exam, it's presence cannot be ruled out, as echocardiogram is only approximately 70% sensitive at detecting cardiac masses.

AGE

9 y

Also seen in this exam is mild regurgitation of blood across the mitral and tricuspid valves resulting from degenerative valve disease, as well as borderline mild left ventricular systolic dysfunction. While the lower limit of normal for fractional shortening is 25%, some dogs with normal function will fall slightly below this limit, therefore, it's possible that a fractional shortening of 23% could potentially be normal. In addition, some dogs will experience a transient mild decrease in systolic function following pericardial effusion formation, therefore it's possible that this could be present. Given this, it's unclear whether true systolic dysfunction is present at this time.

WEIGHT

64 lb

HOSPITAL NAME

Paseos VC

A cardiac CT or MRI can be considered to more comprehensively evaluate for the possible presence of a cardiac neoplasm.

REFERRING VET

Dr. Carrasquillo

As cardiac tamponade is no longer present, no additional therapy appears to be indicated at this time. Consideration can be given to a pericardiectomy procedure in order to prevent future



episodes of cardiac tamponade.

DATE

1/7/22

A recheck echocardiogram is recommended in 2-3 months to reevaluate systolic function, as well as to recheck for a cardiac mass (if CT/MRI is not pursued), sooner if clinical signs with tamponade (ex. lethargy, collapse, abdominal distension, vomiting) recur.

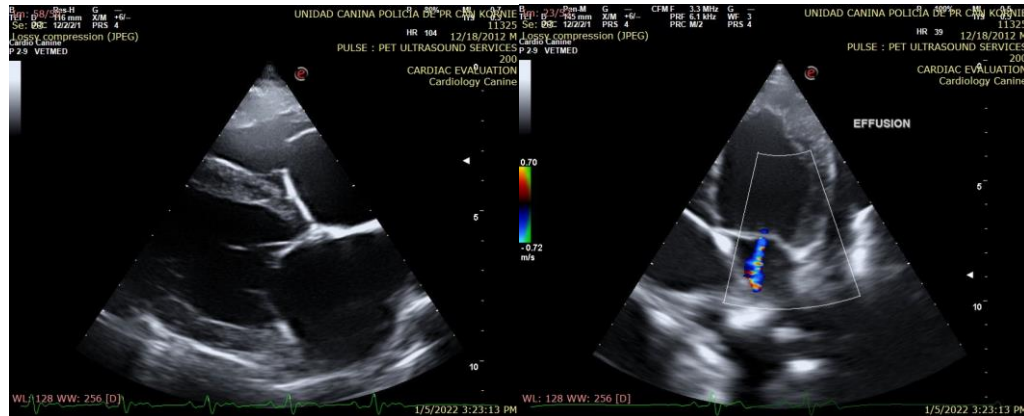
PERFORMED BY:

Dr. Ferrer

As pericardial effusion can redevelop at any time, it's unclear whether continuation as a working police dog is warranted. If idiopathic pericardial effusion is present and pericardiectomy is performed, the risk for experiencing an episode of cardiac tamponade would be significantly reduced.

INTERPRETED BY

Keith Blass, DVM,
MS, DACVIM
(Cardiology)



PATIENT

Can Kornie Unidad
Canina Policia de PR

SPECIES

Canine

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.

BREED

Belgian Malinois

Thank you for this referral. If the clinical or image interpretation does not parallel your findings or if I can be of any further assistance please contact me.

SEX

Keith Blass, DVM, MS, DACVIM (Cardiology)

MI

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9 y

WEIGHT

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HOSPITAL NAME

Paseos VC

REFERRING VET

Dr. Carrasquillo