

**PATIENT**

Maximus Amaral

**SPECIES**

Canine

**BREED**

Pitbull

**SEX**

Male Neutered

**AGE**

10 years

**WEIGHT**

56.4lbs

**INTERPRETED BY**

Maggie Machen Lamy,  
DVM, DACVIM  
(Cardiology)

**IMAGING PERFORMED BY**

Val Shumskaya

**HOSPITAL NAME**

Westwood Regional  
Veterinary Hospital

**REFERRING VET**

Dr. Hartwick

**PRESENTING CLINICAL SIGNS**

History: Owner noticed days where pet seems pale then back to pink. Tachycardic, wide complexes on EKG. Cardio ProBNP = 29.6. History of allergic reactions (angio edema) Dec 2022 - Vomiting and diarrhea.

**ECHOCARDIOGRAM FINDINGS**

2D, m-mode, color flow and doppler imaging is available. Mild left ventricular dilation with significantly decreased systolic function. Decreased LV wall thickness with increased sphericity. Severe left atrial enlargement. The mitral valve appears elongated with restricted motion. LV filling suggests mitral stenosis (inflows not assessed). Mild mitral regurgitation. No significant tricuspid regurgitation. Mild right atrial and ventricular dilation. The aortic valve is normal in morphology and mobility. No subvalvular ridge present; normal LVOT velocity. No aortic insufficiency. Normal pulmonic valve with trace pulmonic insufficiency seen. No pericardial or pleural effusion noted. No obvious cardiac tumors.

**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	NM	NA	NM	2.6	14	20	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	95	1.3	1.0	25.6	4.5	4.7	4.1
*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)
				50	2.88 (7.1)	6.07 (8.3)	4.46 (7.4)

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

**INTERPRETATION OF THE FINDINGS & FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS**

Unfortunately, this patient has significant cardiomyopathy and systolic dysfunction. This is causing dilation and volume overload of both the left and right heart. There is also mitral valve stenosis, which is a congenital abnormality of the valve apparatus. This is often a missed diagnosis, as it rarely causes a systolic murmur until late stage disease. Restricted LV filling over time leads to massive LA dilation as we see here. This suggests the patient is at high risk for decompensating into congestive failure. Patient will always be at risk for right and/or left-sided CHF, development of arrhythmias/syncope and/or sudden death going forward.

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Systolic failure can be primary in nature (DCM) or secondary to taurine deficiency, myocarditis, hypothyroidism, tachycardia-induced cardiomyopathy, or infiltrative disease such as lymphoma. While primary disease is certainly possible, this may also represent myocardial failure secondary to a lifetime of congenital disease. Additionally, an atypical diet or hypothyroidism should be considered as possible contributing factors.

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Regardless of cause, prognosis is guarded to poor at this stage in the disease process, with an average survival time of <6 months. The only treatable cause of systolic failure is diet/taurine deficiency, which is uncommon on commercially formulated dog foods. If the diet is of concern, highly recommend immediate diet change and taurine supplement regardless of blood taurine results. Please see the FDA website for more information.

**SEX**

Male Neutered

Immediate institution of full cardiac supportive medications is recommended as below due to high risk for decompensation. Cases of systolic failure are at high risk for malignant tachyarrhythmias (such as VT or rapid AF) and sudden death, and this should be expressed to the owner. Activity restriction is advised. No comment can be made on a possible arrhythmia without an ECG.

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Elective anesthesia is not advised due to high risk for complications.

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Omega fatty acid supplementation and mild salt restriction may be of some long-term benefit. Monitor for development of a cough, worsening labored breathing, abdominal distention, exercise intolerance or collapse episodes in the future. Monitoring of sleeping breathing rates at home is recommended to assess response to medications and recurrence of CHF in the future.

**INTERPRETED BY**

Maggie Machen Lamy,  
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(Cardiology)

**PLAN:**

**Baseline BP/ECG recommended.** Initiate aldosterone antagonist Spironolactone 1-2mg/kg PO q12h. Institute furosemide 1mg/kg PO q12h. Institute Pimobendan 0.3mg/kg PO q12h. Institute taurine 1000mg PO q12h. Diet history/thyroid level as discussed.

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Monitor a renal panel and blood pressure in 1-2 weeks to ensure tolerance. If BP >130mmHg, institute ACEI 0.5mg/kg PO q12h.

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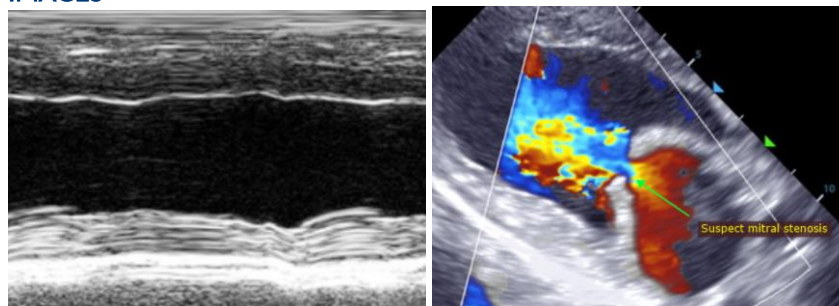
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A recheck echocardiogram is recommended in 6 months to screen for progression, sooner if clinical issues arise in the interim.

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**IMAGES**



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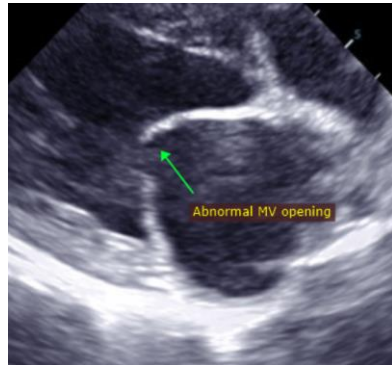
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The information and recommendations provided are based on the images presented by the referring veterinarian. No evaluation can be communicated regarding pathology that was not visible in the image/video clips provided.

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.

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