


**PATIENT**

Skyler Bernard

**SPECIES**

Canine

**BREED**

Shih Tzu

**SEX**

Female Intact

**AGE**

10 years

**WEIGHT**

9lbs

**INTERPRETED BY**

 Maggie Machen Lamy,  
 DVM DACVIM  
 (Cardiology)

**IMAGING PERFORMED BY**

Kelly Reschny, RVT

**HOSPITAL NAME**

 Snelgrove Veterinary  
 Service

**REFERRING VET**

Dr. Gunsinger

**INVOICE**

24272

**DATE**

5/18/22

**PRESENTING CLINICAL SIGNS**

History: History of a cough and was started on Lasix/Pimo. Ran out and went into respiratory distress. Crackles noted on exam. No dyspnea noted currently. Grade 5/6 heart murmur.  
 -Current medications: Pimobendan 1.25mg q12h, furosemide 2mg/kg q12h.

**ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHIC FINDINGS** \*Note: Single lead ECGs are evaluated as a rhythm strip. Morphology/MEA cannot be definitively commented on.

A single lead ECG is available; 50mm/s, 20mm/mV. The average heart rate is 150bpm (range 100-176bpm). The rhythm is sinus in origin, with a p for every QRS complex and vice versa. The P and QRS are inverted. Occasional APCs are identified. No ventricular premature beats, pauses or other dysrhythmias observed.

ECG diagnosis: Normal sinus rhythm with respiratory variation. Isolated APCs.

**ECHOCARDIOGRAM FINDINGS**

2D, m-mode, color flow and doppler imaging is available. Diffuse thickening of mitral valve leaflets with prolapse into the left atrial lumen. Severe eccentric mitral regurgitation with severe left atrial dilation. Normal MR velocity. Mild LV dilation with adequate myocardial function. The tricuspid valve appears mildly thickened with mild TR. Mild elevated velocity. Mild right heart enlargement. The pulmonic and aortic valves are normal in morphology and mobility. Normal aortic and pulmonic outflow velocities with laminar flow. No AI and trace PI. No pericardial or pleural effusion noted. No obvious cardiac masses.

**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	5.4	3.0	NM	2.1	43	80	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	NM	NM	1.2	4.1	2.7	3.0	1.7
*Normal chamber parameters expressed as a mean value (SD)				3	1.27 (5.3)	2.46 (2.46)	1.36 (5.5)
BODY WEIGHT DEPENDENT PARAMETERS				5	1.40 (4.5)	2.74 (5.2)	1.60 (4.7)
*Note: All measurements based upon multi-modal images and methods. An average value is reported.				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



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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. Early pulmonary hypertension is noted, which is likely secondary to chronic LA pressure elevation. No additional issues are identified.

The ECG shows a normal sinus rhythm with isolated APCs. APCs are common with significant structural disease and stress, which is likely the case here. No treatment for a single APC is warranted. Monitor for signs of sustained arrhythmias, such as lethargy or collapse.

In light of the clinical signs and severity of disease on echocardiogram, the diagnosis is likely congestive heart failure and continued medications are warranted lifelong as below. Crackles are nonspecific and this breed is predisposed to concurrent airway disease and chest radiographs are strongly recommended. Monitoring of sleeping respiratory rates will be paramount to screen for congestive heart failure at home. Cough suppression to improve QOL can also be considered (hydrocodone, 0.2-0.4mg/kg up to q4-6h PRN) for any residual mechanical cough in the face of normal sleeping respiratory rates. The average survival time 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.

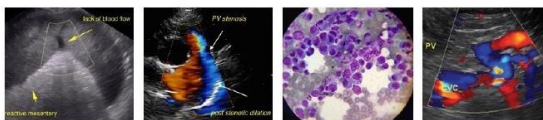
Omega fatty acid supplementation and mild salt restriction may also be of some long-term benefit. Monitor for acute progression of the cough, labored breathing, exercise intolerance or collapse episodes in the future.

## PLAN

Administer Lasix 1-2mg/kg PO q12h. Administer Pimobendan 0.3mg/kg PO q12h. Administer ACE-I 0.5mg/kg PO q12h. Administer Spironolactone 1-2mg/kg PO q12h. Chest radiographs recommended as discussed.

Monitor SRRs at home. Recheck renal values and BP in 10-14 days, then every 3-4 months lifelong. Consider hydrocodone if needed for QOL.

Recommend conservative monitoring with a recheck echocardiogram in 6 months, sooner if any development of associated clinical signs occurs in the interim.



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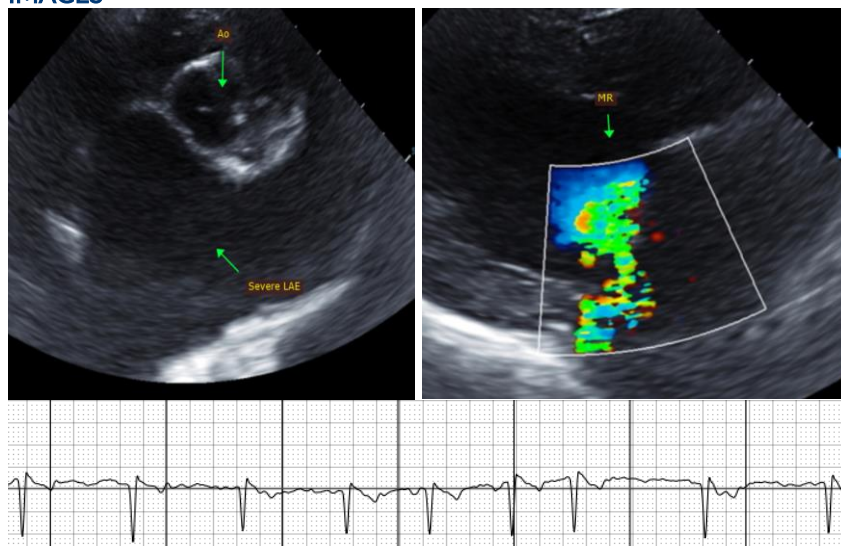
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**IMAGES**



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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