



**PATIENT**

Ava Nichols

**SPECIES**

Canine

**BREED**

Chihuahua x

**SEX**

Spayed Female

**AGE**

9 Years

**WEIGHT**

5.5 kg

**INTERPRETED BY**

Beth Johnson, DVM  
 DACVIM

**IMAGING PERFORMED BY**

Crystal Hill

**HOSPITAL NAME**

Novel Vet

**REFERRING VET**

Dr. Gibbs

**INVOICE**

71942

**DATE**

11/19/25

**PRESENTING CLINICAL SIGNS**

Please see attached previous echo report. Cushing's disease currently managed on natural supplements only. Previous echo showed stage B1 heart disease. History of collapsing trachea. Has been on Adrenal Gold PetWellBeing and Gabapentin. Abdominal distension, suspected hepatomegaly and cushings disease. Was given 5 days of Furosemide.

Abnormal PE/Chem/CBC/UA Results: Please see attached lab results and previous echo report

**ULTRASONOGRAPHIC EXAMINATION OF THE ABDOMEN**

**Urinary System**

The urinary bladder is adequately distended with anechoic contents. No masses, inflammatory changes, echogenic sediment or cystoliths are observed. The urinary bladder, trigone and visible pelvic urethra are normal in thickness with a smooth mucosal surface.

Kidneys are bilaterally irregular and diffusely echogenic with decreased corticomedullary distinction and poor visualization of internal architecture. There is no pyelectasia noted and no mineral is observed. Left kidney is small-normal at 3.7 cm. Right kidney is normal at 4.1 cm.

**Adrenal Glands**

Adrenal glands are plump/swollen in size. Normal shape and contour are maintained without evidence of capsular invasion. Corticomedullary structure is unremarkable. Visible surrounding vasculature appears normal. Left measures 0.72 cm at the cranial pole and 0.86 cm at the caudal pole. Right measures 1.0 cm at the cranial pole and 0.79 cm at the caudal pole.

**Spleen**

The spleen is subjectively normal in size with a normal smooth capsular contour. Parenchyma is appropriately finely textured and homogenous with normal echogenicity relative to surrounding tissue (hyperechoic to liver). No focal nodules or masses are observed. Splenic vasculature appears normal.

**Liver**

Liver is subjectively enlarged with mildly irregular margins. Parenchyma is mildly heterogenous characterized by multiple poorly defined hypoechoic nodules within otherwise hyperechoic liver parenchyma. Visible vasculature and biliary tree appear normal without distension or congestion

Gallbladder is mildly overdistended with a moderate amount of non-dependent, mildly aggregated/inspissated sludge. Hypo to anechoic cystic areas are noted between the gallbladder sludge and luminal wall. The wall is otherwise smooth without visible thickening. There is no evidence of cystic or CBD dilation. There is no evidence of effusion.

**Gastrointestinal**

The visible stomach wall is normal in thickness and layering. The lumen of the stomach is empty with no evidence of obstruction, foreign material or infiltrative disease. Pyloric outflow tract appears patent.

The visible small intestines are normal in wall thickness and layering. Hyperechoic mucosal fogging or speckling is noted. Small intestinal motility appears adequate (1-3 contractions per min). The lumen of the small intestine is empty with no evidence of obstruction or foreign material.



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The visible colon is normal in wall thickness (< 0.2 cm) and layering. Contents are consistent with normal formed feces and gas.

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***Pancreas***

**SPECIES**

The pancreas that is observed appears appropriately isoechoic to surrounding omental fat. Visible capsule is smooth and normal in contour. Visible pancreatic parenchyma is homogenous and unremarkable. There is no visible pancreatic duct dilation. There is no evidence of active peripancreatic inflammation.

Canine

**BREED**

***Free Abdomen***

Chihuahua x

There is no visible free peritoneal effusion noted in these images.

**SEX**

There is no apparent pathologic lymphadenopathy noted in these images.

Spayed Female

**ULTRASONOGRAPHIC FINDINGS**

**AGE**

- Bilateral adrenomegaly – In a patient diagnosed with hyperadrenocorticism, this finding is most consistent with adrenal hyperplasia secondary to pituitary dependent hyperadrenocorticism. This finding can also be seen with stress and/or normal patient variant. Interpret in combination with clinical signs of hyperadrenocorticism and/or other adrenal disease.

9 Years

**WEIGHT**

- Mildly heterogenous liver – These changes are most consistent with benign processes such as nodular hyperplasia, steroid (vacuolar) hepatopathy, extramedullary hematopoiesis or possibly chronic inflammatory disease and less commonly infiltrative round cell or metastatic neoplasia.

5.5 kg

**INTERPRETED BY**

- Emerging mucocele – Cholecystic debris is of unknown clinical significance. It can be seen with biliary stasis from fasting or illness. Cholecystic debris is not necessarily related to hepatobiliary disease. The non-dependent nature of this sludge combined with the cystic areas are suggestive, however, of possible emerging cystic mucosal hyperplasia or early gallbladder mucocele.

Beth Johnson, DVM  
 DACVIM

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- Subtle/mild mucosal speckling – Mucosal speckling is often present with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). It is not specific for type or severity of disease. Mild speckling change can occur as a normal patient variant in the post-prandial state.

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- Mild to moderate chronic kidney disease changes.

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**INTERPRETATION OF THE FINDINGS & FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS**

Dr. Gibbs

Further recommendations regarding the changes above are largely dependent on clinical signs, results of cardiac workup, etc. Having said that, if not recently evaluated, a blood pressure is recommended.

**INVOICE**

If patient has been diagnosed with hyperadrenocorticism, and clinical signs support the diagnosis, then based on imaging results, it is most likely pituitary dependent.

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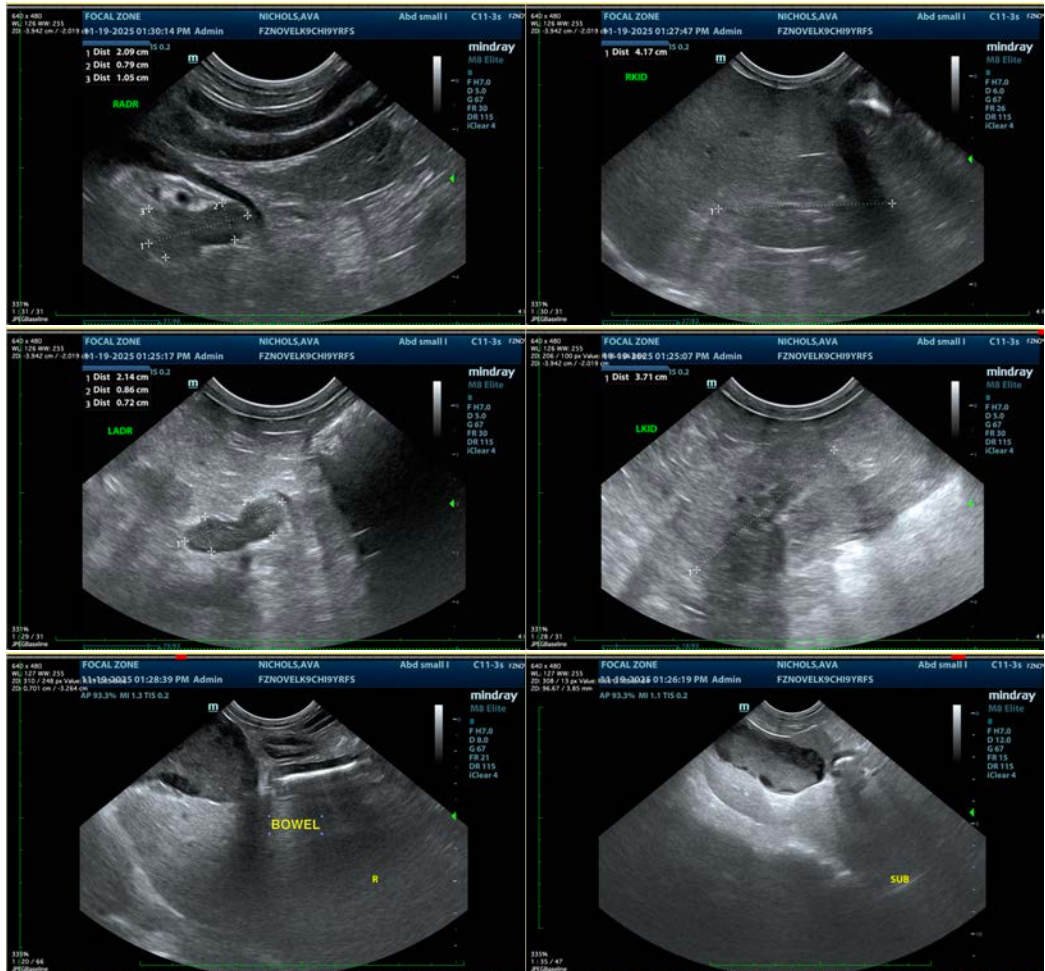
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The information and recommendations provided are based on the images presented by the referring veterinarian/sonographer. No evaluation can be communicated regarding pathology that was not visible in the image/video clips provided.

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.

**Beth Johnson, DVM, DACVIM**  
 info@sonopath.com