

PATIENT

Nutmeg Labbe

SPECIES

Feline

BREED

DSH

SEX

FS

AGE

13 years

WEIGHT

6.1 lbs

INTERPRETED BY

Beth Johnson, DVM
DACVIM

IMAGING PERFORMED BY

Pamela Harrigan, RDCS,
Certified Veterinary
Sonographer

HOSPITAL NAME

VCA Palmer Animal
Hospital

REFERRING VET

Dr. Michelle Haroules

INVOICE

10782

DATE

11/20/2025

PRESENTING CLINICAL SIGNS

Was seen for 1 pound weight loss in a 6-month period. BW all WNL except t\$ 3.6 and free T4 55.8. Was to be placed on Methimazole but owner elected to to radioactive iodine treatment. Has not been treated at this point. New work up showed normal T4 nd free T4 as well as TSH. Cat is not hyperthyroid.

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 overall normal in size and shape with smooth peripheral margination. A normal 1:3 cortex to medulla ratio is maintained. The medulla and cortices are uniform in texture with some mild increased cortical echogenicity and mild loss of corticomedullary distinction, expected in this age patient. There is no evidence infarcts observed. Non-obstructive linear multifocal hyperechoic diverticular foci with acoustic shadowing are noted bilaterally. Left kidney measures 3.31 cm, with mild pyelectasia measuring 0.3 cm in transverse view. The right kidney measures 3.49 cm, with trace pyelectasia noted.

Adrenal Glands

The right adrenal gland is normal in size (0.43 cm), shape and overall architecture, echogenicity and echotexture. Visible surrounding vasculature appears normal.

The left adrenal gland is normal in size (0.33 cm), shape and overall architecture, echogenicity and echotexture. Visible surrounding vasculature appears normal.

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

The liver is subjectively normal in size with normal smooth curvilinear peripheral contour. Parenchyma is appropriately hypoechoic to the spleen in echogenicity and appropriately mildly coarse and homogenous in echotexture. No focal lesions are observed. Visible vasculature and biliary tree appear normal without distension or congestion.

Gallbladder is moderately distended with anechoic bile as well as suspended and gravity dependent echogenic debris. The wall is smooth without visible thickening. There is no evidence of cystic or CBD dilation. There is no evidence of effusion or inflammation.

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.



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The visible small intestine demonstrates areas of moderately thick muscularis layer relative to mucosa (disruption of the normal 1:3 muscularis:mucosa ratio). Small intestinal submucosa is slightly irregular, thick and hyperechoic, without evident loss of layering appreciated. The lumen of the small intestine is empty with no evidence of obstruction or foreign material.

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

Pancreas

Pancreas is prominent (enlarged) in size, hypoechoic to surrounding tissue and has a mildly irregular undulating contour. Parenchyma is coarse with mixed echogenic remodeling noted. No pancreatic duct dilation is noted.

Free Abdomen

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

Mesenteric lymph nodes are prominent in size with swollen capsular contour. Normal elongated shape (length to width ratio) is maintained. There is no loss of parenchymal detail.

PRIMARY FINDINGS

- Moderate inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) pattern – Thick muscularis has been reported with infiltrative bowel disease including both benign inflammatory disease as well as infiltrative neoplasia such as lymphoma. No loss of layering, etc. is noted to make lymphoma more probable, but lymphoma cannot be definitively ruled out without tissue sampling.
- Concurrent chronic low grade smoldering pancreatitis is suspected.
- Moderate gallbladder debris – Cholecystic debris is of unknown clinical significance. It can be seen with biliary stasis from fasting or illness, however, it can also be associated with hepatobiliary disease in cats and should be interpreted in combination with clinical signs such as nausea, inappetence, cranial abdominal discomfort and/or laboratory changes such as increased ALP and/or increased Tbili.
- Mildly to moderately reactive lymph nodes – infiltrative neoplastic disease cannot be ruled out but is considered less likely.

SECONDARY FINDINGS

- Age related kidney changes with trace to mild bilateral pyelectasia, and non-obstructive dystrophic mineralization.

INTERPRETATION OF THE FINDINGS & FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

If weight loss has persisted and/or progressed, especially in the face of normal or even increased appetite, then given the changes noted above malabsorptive and/or maldigested gastrointestinal disease is a top differential.

- A gastrointestinal malabsorption panel (including cobalamin, folate, TLI and PLI) to Texas A&M GI Laboratory is recommended for further evaluation of GI and pancreatic function.



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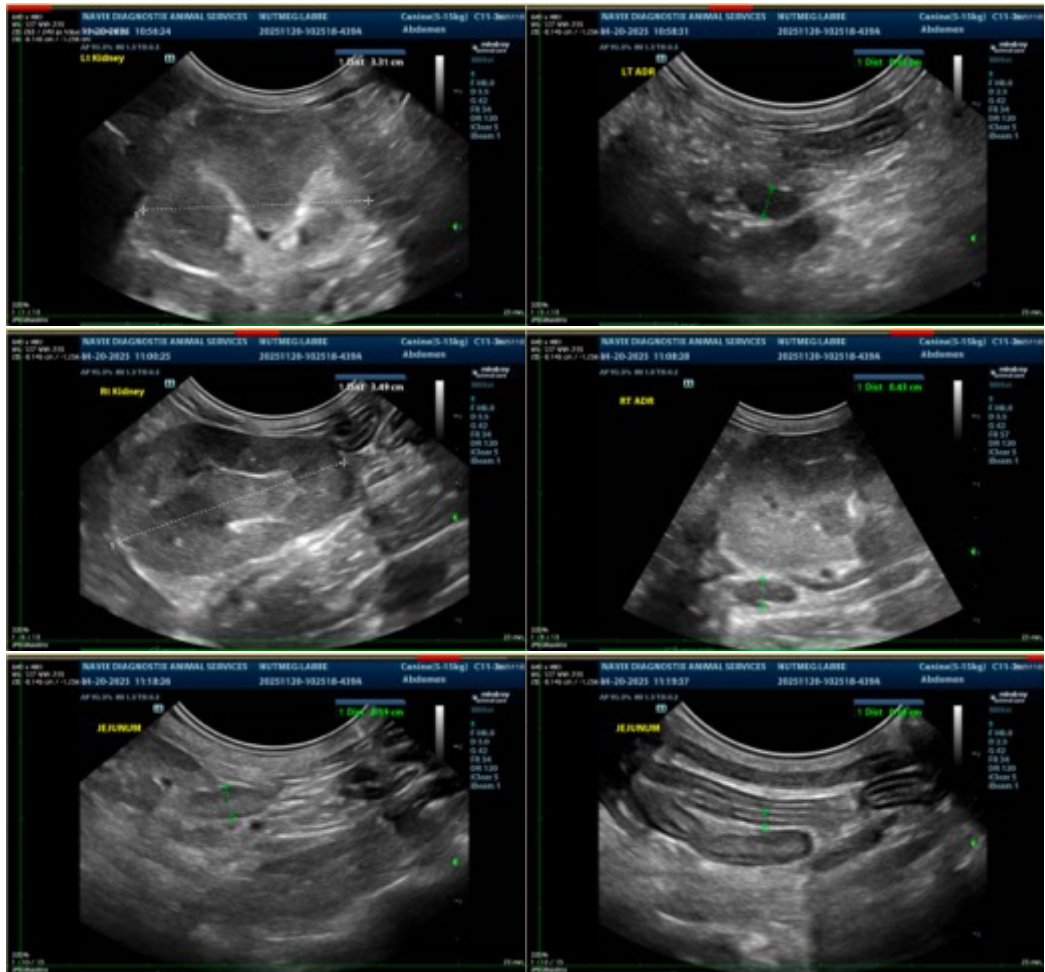
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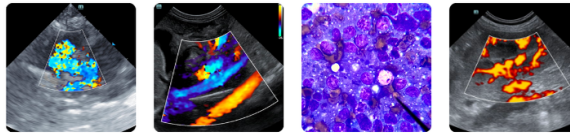
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- Ideally, biopsies of the GI tract, being sure to include ileum if possible, are recommended to definitively diagnose and therefore manage the infiltrative bowel disease.
- If biopsies cannot be obtained, empirical therapies could include a probiotic (if diarrhea is present, such as visbiome or proviable), empirical deworming with a 5-day course of Panacur and, if tolerated, a transition in diet, based on trial-and-error response, beginning with a hydrolyzed protein diet. Some patients respond to one brand/version of a hydrolyzed protein diet better than another brand, so several trials may be required
- Additional considerations could include cobalamin supplementation (unless cobalamin level is evaluated and supplementation is not warranted) and prednisolone (if not contraindicated based on patient contraindications, co-morbidities, etc.).





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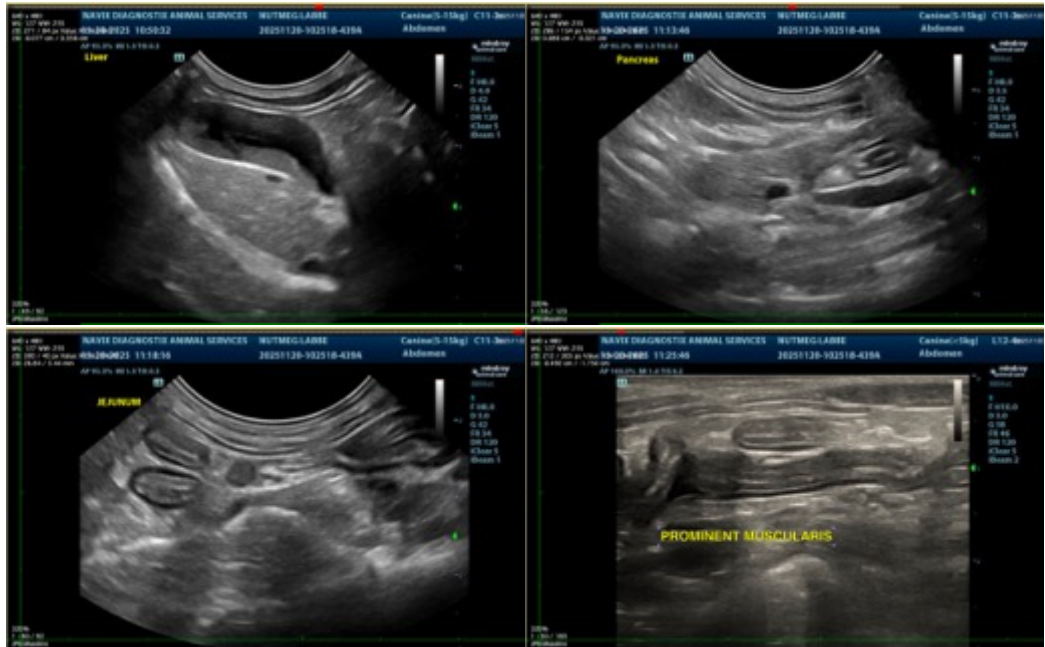
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The information and recommendations provided are based on the images presented by the referring veterinarian/sonographer. No evaluation can be communicated regarding pathology that was not visible in the image/video clips provided.

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
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