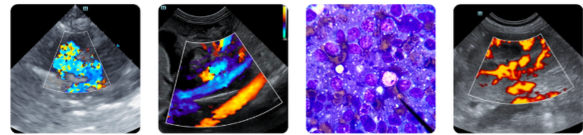


PATIENT

Oliver Baptiste

SPECIES

Canine

BREED

Neutered Male

SEX

Neutered Male

AGE

13 years

WEIGHT

4.3 kg

INTERPRETED BY

Beth Johnson, DVM DACVIM

IMAGING PERFORMED BY

Amanda Stewart

HOSPITAL NAME

Woodstock VH

REFERRING VET

Dr. Wagler

INVOICE

10692

DATE

11/05/2025

PRESENTING CLINICAL SIGNS

Three episodes of vomiting bile and yellow fluid, as well as urinating on the bed. - The owner reported that he got into the garbage the previous night. - There is a history of a slowly increasing ALT since January 2025, with values progressing from 170 to 500, then decreasing to 200 before rising to 800 today. - His weight has been stable, and he has a good appetite while eating an over-the-counter diet. - On physical examination, a tense cranial abdomen was noted. Current Medications MEDS: - ProLIV supplements, Cerenia EOD for collapsing trachea.

Abnormal PE/Chem/CBC/UA Results: Previous abd ultrasound from April 2025 revealed: - Mild hepatic vacuolar disease. - Possible chronic irritation surrounding the pancreas. - Degenerative changes in the kidneys. - No focal liver lesions were identified to suggest neoplasia. - Liver biopsies were recommended at that time but were declined by the owner. - Bloodwork from today (November 05, 2025): - ALT is significantly elevated at 8X normal 800. - Total bilirubin is moderately elevated at 23. - Spec cPL was within the normal range. - Urinalysis from today (November 05, 2025): - Urine specific gravity is slightly low at 1.020. - No bilirubinuria was noted. - No crystalluria was noted. Radiographic Findings N/A Primary Question to Be Answered in This Exam Gall Bladder for cholestasis.

ULTRASONOGRAPHIC EXAMINATION OF THE ABDOMEN

Urinary System

Urinary bladder is adequately distended. It has a normal uniform wall thickness. Contents include primarily anechoic fluid with a mild amount of echogenic non-shadowing debris, most consistent with exfoliated cells, mucous and/or small blood clots. Both sterile inflammation as well as urinary tract infection can present with echogenic debris. No masses or cystoliths are observed. The trigone and visible pelvic urethra are normal in thickness with a smooth mucosal surface.

Prostate is normal in size, echotexture, and echogenicity for a neutered male.

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 of pyelectasia, mineral or infarcts observed. Left kidney measures 3.88 cm, and the right kidney measures 3.56 cm.

Adrenal Glands

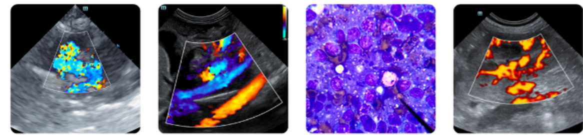
The right adrenal gland is normal in size (0.74 cm at cranial pole and 0.48 cm at caudal pole), shape and overall architecture, echogenicity and echotexture. Visible surrounding vasculature appears normal.

The left adrenal gland is normal in size (0.49 cm at cranial pole and 0.6 cm at caudal pole), 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



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Liver is normal to subjectively small in size with slightly undulating or scalloped capsular contour or margins. Parenchyma is diffusely heterogenous with increased portal markings and coarse architecture. No focal nodules or masses are observed. Visible vasculature and biliary tree appear normal without distension or congestion.

The gallbladder is non-distended in size. The wall is smooth without visible thickening. Luminal contents are primarily anechoic. There is no evidence of cystic or common bile duct dilation.

Gastrointestinal

The visible stomach wall is normal in thickness and layering. The stomach is moderately distended with echogenic non-shadowing luminal contents and gas consistent with normal ingesta. There is no evidence of obstruction, foreign material or infiltrative disease. If patient was appropriately fasted, delayed gastric emptying could be considered. Non-shadowing foreign material is considered less likely but cannot be definitively ruled out.

If clinical signs are consistent (vomiting, etc.), recommendations include supportive medical care, 24 hours fasting and re-image.

The visible small intestines are normal in wall thickness and layering. Small intestinal motility appears adequate (1-3 contractions per min). The lumen of the small intestine is mildly distended with echogenic non-shadowing luminal contents and gas consistent with normal ingesta. There is no evidence of obstruction or foreign material noted.

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 and mildly irregular in shape with a slightly undulating contour. Parenchyma is coarse in echotexture and heterogenous to hypoechoic in echogenicity.

Free Abdomen

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

There is no apparent pathologic lymphadenopathy noted in these images.

PRIMARY FINDINGS

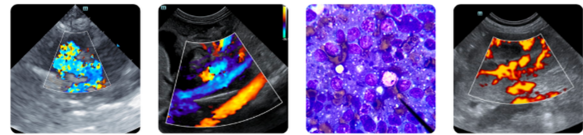
- An obvious cause for the subtle liver changes is not identified in these images. Microscopic disease such as Leptospirosis, bacterial cholangiohepatitis, chronic active hepatitis, copper-associated hepatotoxicity, other hepatotoxicity, other reactive hepatopathy, infiltrative neoplasia, etc. cannot be definitively ruled out.

- Chronic low grade smoldering pancreatitis can't be ruled out and should be suspected in the face of appropriate clinical signs.

SECONDARY FINDINGS

- Age related kidney changes.

- A mild amount of echogenic urinary bladder debris.



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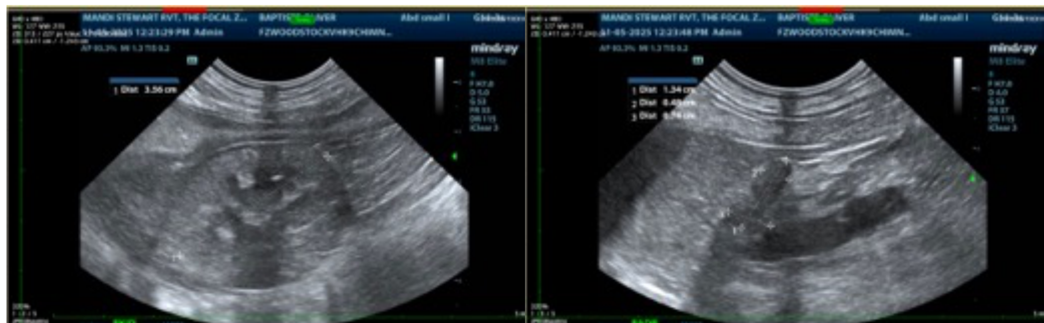
INTERPRETATION OF THE FINDINGS & FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Differentials for a primary hepatocellular injury liver enzyme pattern (increased ALT) depend partially on the level of increase. Mild increases (less than 2 times normal) are often a “reactive hepatopathy” or the liver’s response to an insult elsewhere in the body including, but not limited to, pancreatitis, gastroenteritis, parasitic disease, dental disease, vacuolar or endocrine hepatopathy from diabetes mellitus or hyperadrenocorticism (steroid-induced), hypoadrenocorticism, certain drugs (e.g. phenobarbital, corticosteroids, azathioprine, etc.), and muscle ALT (more likely if AST and CK concurrently increased).

It is a good indicator of active liver damage (cell membrane disruption, cellular necrosis), however, if the value is increased by at least 3-4 times normal. Differentials include infectious disease, including Leptospirosis, inflammatory disease (ie. active hepatitis, copper, other), toxic insult as well as infiltrative neoplasia.

ALT levels vary in cases of vascular anomalies such as microvascular dysplasia and portosystemic shunts (PSS) but are often less significantly increased.

- Testing for Leptospirosis could be considered.
- Bile acids could be considered, if tbili is not increased.
- In addition to supportive/symptomatic medical management of clinical signs, an empirical course of antibiotics and empirical hepatic nutraceuticals may be tried, with monitoring of ALT for improvement. If improvement is noted, antibiotics should be continued until liver enzymes either normalize or plateau (recheck every 2-3 weeks); however, if improvement is not noted and/or enzyme increase progresses, antibiotics should not be continued long term and liver tissue sampling is recommended.
- FNA of the liver can be performed to assess inflammatory cell type, rule in/out round cell neoplasia, etc. (if patient’s coagulation status is appropriate).
- If round cell neoplasia is not diagnosed, a liver biopsy (including copper level assessment) may be required to definitively diagnose the underlying hepatopathy.



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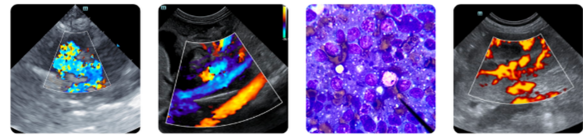

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Educational Teleconsultation Services™

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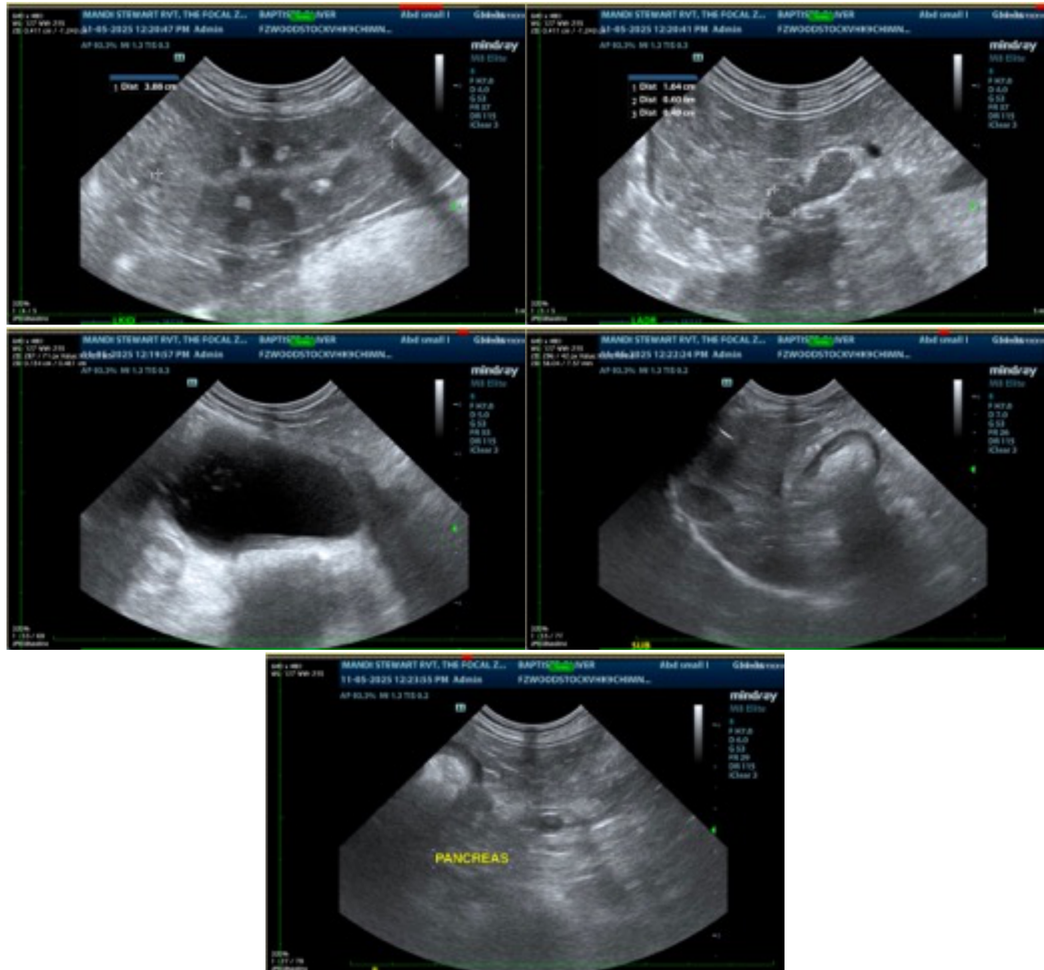

The information and recommendations provided are based on the images presented by the referring veterinarian/sonographer. No evaluation can be communicated regarding pathology that was not visible in the image/video clips provided.

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