



PATIENT

Caesar Liberante

SPECIES

Canine

BREED

Border Collie

SEX

M/N

AGE

10 years

WEIGHT

97.6

INTERPRETED BY

Beth Johnson, DVM
DACVIM

IMAGING PERFORMED BY

Dr. Reyes

HOSPITAL NAME

Graceful Paws Pet
Clinic

REFERRING VET

Dr. Reyes

INVOICE

10903

DATE

12/9/2025

PRESENTING CLINICAL SIGNS

Pet presented for second opinion on elevated liver enzymes. P was screen for Cushing's disease. Normal rectal exam. Pet also has history of bloody diarrhea, resolved after diet change. Cortisol baseline: 9.9 1 hr Post Dex: <1 2 hr Post Dex: < 1.

Abnormal PE/Chem/CBC/UA Results: CBC: wnl Chem ALB: 4.5 ALP: 721 Ca: 2.5.

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.

The prostate is unable to be well visualized in these images.

The right kidney is normal is size (7.0 cm), shape and echogenicity. It has smooth peripheral margination. There is a normal 1:3 cortex to medulla ratio with appropriate corticomedullary distinction. There is no evidence of pyelectasia, mineral or infarcts observed.

The left kidney is normal is size (6.9 cm), shape and echogenicity. It has smooth peripheral margination. There is a normal 1:3 cortex to medulla ratio with appropriate corticomedullary distinction. There is no evidence of pyelectasia, mineral or infarcts observed.

Adrenal Glands

The adrenal glands are unable to be well visualized in these images.

Spleen

Spleen is subjectively large 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.

The spleen is folded upon itself, which is a positional non-pathologic variant.

Liver

Liver is subjectively enlarged with mildly irregular margins. Parenchyma is markedly 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 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 mildly distended with very echogenic reverberation artifact from intraluminal gas. There is no evidence of obstruction, foreign material, or infiltrative disease; however, visualization is partially inhibited by gas. Pyloric outflow tract appears patent.



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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 very echogenic reverberation artifact from intraluminal gas. There is no evidence of obstruction, foreign material, or infiltrative disease; however, visualization is partially inhibited by gas.

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

Pancreas

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.

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

- The markedly heterogenous, almost nodular appearing liver, could represent a benign process such as nodular hyperplasia, steroid or vacuolar hepatopathy, extramedullary hematopoiesis, chronic inflammatory disease, etc., Although, infiltrative neoplasia including round cell neoplasia, metastatic neoplasia, other, can't be ruled out without tissue sampling.
- Splenomegaly- can be associated with congestion caused by sedation (if sedated) but can also be associated with diffuse infiltrative disease. Both benign conditions such as extramedullary hematopoiesis, lymphoid hyperplasia, as well as infiltrative neoplastic diseases such as round cell neoplasia should be considered.
- Gallbladder debris - 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. Echogenic bile is most commonly an incidental finding in dogs 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.

INTERPRETATION OF THE FINDINGS & FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

I'm unsure how to interpret the provided calcium level and cortisol values without units or reference ranges, and I'm not sure if the provided calcium is a total calcium or an ionized calcium. Having said that, especially if patient is hypercalcemic and if baseline cortisol is low, and given the history of bloody diarrhea, a full ACTH stimulation test could be considered to more definitively investigate possible hypoadrenocorticism.

Pending results of above, if patient is hypercalcemic, and not already evaluated, a malignancy panel (PTH, PTHrP, iCa) to Michigan State College of Veterinary Medicine is recommended for further investigation of the reported hypercalcemia.



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Three view thoracic radiographs are recommended for further assessment of cardio-pulmonary status as well as to further evaluate for any evidence of metastatic disease, if not recently evaluated.

Fine needle aspirates of the liver +/- spleen, are recommended if patients coagulation status is appropriate.

Finally, if a diagnosis is not obtained, further gastrointestinal workup may be indicated, including a routine fecal/giardia exam if not recently evaluated. 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 +/- a fecal enteropathogen PCR panel to Texas A&M GI Laboratory could be considered for further evaluation of possible infectious disease. Contact lab for recommendations on how long to discontinue antibiotics (if indicated) prior to obtaining a stool sample for submission.

Other than supportive/symptomatic medical management of clinical signs, further diagnostic and treatment recommendations are largely dependent on results of the above.



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.



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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