



## PATIENT

Clark Trotter

## SPECIES

Canine

## BREED

Golden Retriever

## SEX

Neutered Male

## AGE

3 Years 28 Days

## WEIGHT

32 kg

## INTERPRETED BY

Beth Johnson, DVM  
DACVIM

## IMAGING PERFORMED BY

Dr. Jill Rankin

## HOSPITAL NAME

Bridgeland Vet Clinic

## REFERRING VET

Dr. Costa

## INVOICE

73546

## DATE

3/10/26

## PRESENTING CLINICAL SIGNS

Clark, a young mn dog, presented for a two-day history of acute vomiting, inappetence, and lethargy, with a historical concern in the past for foreign body ingestion, however nothing was witnessed to have been ingested at this time.

As of Tuesday, the patient had not eaten a full meal since Sunday morning. On Monday, he was reported to be very lethargic, had two loose bowel movements, and vomited any food or water he consumed. The vomit did not contain any blood. He was able to keep down a couple of turkey snacks on Monday night. The owner also noted possible heavier breathing at rest and potential discomfort.

Clark has a history of dietary indiscretion, including an emergency visit approximately one year ago for a chewed towel. While he reportedly does not typically eat non-food items, he does carry objects in his mouth daily. On physical examination, he groaned and appeared nauseous upon deep abdominal palpation. The owner reports no history of cardiovascular or respiratory concerns, but has observed increased anxiety over the past few months.

## 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.

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

The right kidney is normal is size (5.3 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. *\*I believe the right kidney is normal, but it is only visualized in an oblique/almost transverse view, making the measurement falsely small.*

The left kidney is normal is size (7.2 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 area of the right adrenal gland is examined without evident adrenal gland pathology.

The left adrenal gland is normal in size (0.51 cm at cranial pole and 0.51 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

Liver is subjectively enlarged (swollen contour) with a diffusely mildly coarse architecture and subtly increased portal markings. Mildly mixed echogenic changes are noted diffusely. No focal lesions are observed. Visible vasculature and biliary tree appear normal without distension or congestion.



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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.

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### *Gastrointestinal*

The visible stomach wall is normal in thickness and layering. The lumen of the stomach is mildly distended with a small to moderate amount of echogenic non-shadowing luminal contents and gas consistent with normal ingesta. Additionally, some reverberation artifact from intraluminal gas partially limits evaluation of the far wall and the pylorus fully.

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Golden Retriever

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

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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*

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.

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### *Free Abdomen*

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

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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.

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## ULTRASONOGRAPHIC 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.
- Mild 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.
- Reactive mesenteric lymph nodes - infiltrative neoplastic disease cannot be ruled out but is considered less likely.

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**INTERPRETATION OF THE FINDINGS & FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS**

This appears to be at least in part a post-prandial study with no definitive obstructive pattern, shadowing, etc. to indicate foreign material. Having said that, non-shadowing, non-fully obstructive foreign material cannot be definitively ruled out. Reevaluation following an additional 12-24 hours of fasting could be considered.

In the meantime, additional gastrointestinal workup could be considered, beginning with:

If not recently evaluated, a general metabolic health screen (CBC, chemistry panel with electrolytes and urinalysis) is recommended.

A routine fecal/giardia exam is recommended.

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 baseline cortisol is recommended. If baseline cortisol is less than 2, a full ACTH stimulation test is recommended to rule out hypoadrenocorticism.

Pending results of above, fine needle aspirates of the enlarged lymph nodes +/- liver could also be considered if patient's coagulation status is appropriate.

In the meantime, supportive/symptomatic medical management of clinical signs is recommended, including anti-emetics, gastroprotectants (+/- sucralfate, especially with any history of hematemesis), an appetite stimulant and fluid therapy if indicated, etc.

Additionally, empirical deworming with a 5-day course of Panacur is recommended as is a full course of empirical Helicobacter triple therapy.

Finally, if tolerated, a transition in diet could be considered, based on trial-and-error response with some options to consider including a gastrointestinal biome diet vs a hydrolyzed protein diet (sometimes several trials with different brands are necessary) vs an easy to digest, bland or low-fat diet vs other.





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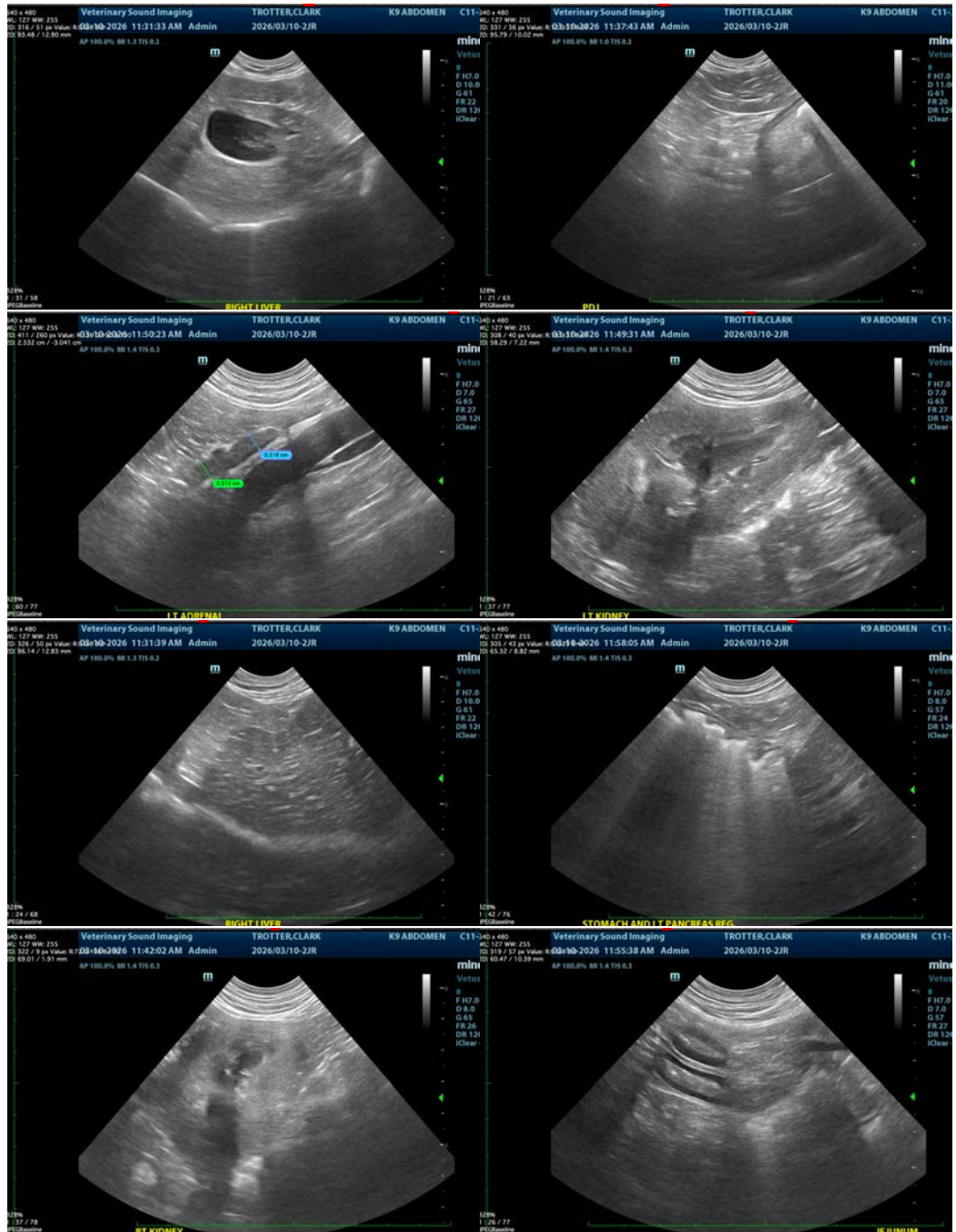
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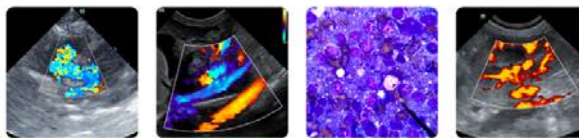
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The information and recommendations provided are based on the images presented by the referring veterinarian/sonographer. No evaluation can be communicated regarding pathology that was not visible in the image/video clips provided.

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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