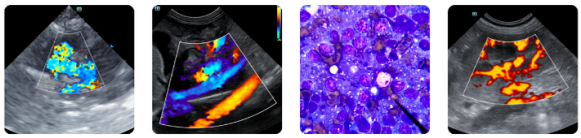

PATIENT

EvieGray Ghidossi

SPECIES

Canine

BREED

Chinese Crested

SEX

FS

AGE

7 years

WEIGHT

11.6 lbs

INTERPRETED BY

Beth Johnson, DVM DACVIM

IMAGING PERFORMED BY

Loetitia Saint-Jacques, LVT

HOSPITAL NAME

MountainView Animal Hospital

REFERRING VET

Dr. Ashlie Brown

INVOICE

11537

DATE

3/19/2026

PRESENTING CLINICAL SIGNS

- Patient had routine blood work performed recently. ALT on 11.6.25 was 162 and recheck after liver supplement (Denamarin Advanced for small dogs) was 235 on 12.17.25. Patient has otherwise been doing well and is asymptomatic for liver disease at this time. Evaluate for a cause of the elevated liver values. The only changes to her is she is struggling more with anxiety.

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 right kidney is normal is size (4.58 cm), shape and echogenicity. It has smooth peripheral margination. There is a normal 1:3 cortex to medulla ratio with appropriate corticomedullary distinction. A hyperechoic band parallel to the corticomedullary border is present. There is no evidence of pyelectasia, mineral or infarcts observed.

The left kidney is normal is size (3.98 cm), shape and echogenicity. It has smooth peripheral margination. There is a normal 1:3 cortex to medulla ratio with appropriate corticomedullary distinction. A hyperechoic band parallel to the corticomedullary border is present. There is no evidence of pyelectasia, mineral or infarcts observed.

Adrenal Glands

The right adrenal gland is normal in size (0.4 cm at cranial pole and 0.39 cm at caudal pole), shape and overall architecture, echogenicity and echotexture. Visible surrounding vasculature appears normal.

The left adrenal gland is normal in size (0.37 cm at cranial pole and 0.5 cm at caudal pole), shape and overall architecture, echogenicity and echotexture. Visible surrounding vasculature appears normal. A hyperechoic nodule is noted in the caudal pole of the left adrenal gland. Nodule does not disrupt normal shape and/or architecture.

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. There is a very subtle faint 0.5 cm in diameter hypoechoic nodule noted in the right liver. 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.

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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. Small intestinal motility appears adequate (1-3 contractions per min). The lumen of the small intestine is empty with no evidence of obstruction, foreign material or infiltrative disease.

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.

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 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.
- Bilateral medullary rim sign - This finding is of unknown clinical significance and can be a normal variant, often idiopathic. Medullary rim sign can be present with renal disease including lymphoma, hypercalcemic nephropathy, Leptospirosis, tubular disease, other and should be interpreted in combination with other more specific indications of kidney disease such as isosthenuria, proteinuria, azotemia, etc. This is a common incidental finding in patients with diabetes mellitus.
- Very mildly reactive mesenteric lymph nodes – infiltrative neoplastic disease cannot be ruled out but is considered less likely. This finding may be in part normal patient variant as it's very subtle.
- Otherwise, an obvious cause for the reported increased liver enzymes 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 (considered unlikely), etc. cannot be definitively ruled out.

SECONDARY FINDINGS

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- Small hyperechoic adrenal nodule – Differentials include primary adrenal cortical adenoma or adenocarcinoma, pheochromocytoma, myelolipoma, adrenal hyperplasia secondary to pituitary disease or metastatic disease. Ultrasound alone cannot differentiate between functional and non-functional nodules and/or between benign and malignant disease. Small nodules without other evidence of abdominal disease (to suggest metastatic disease) and/or clinical signs (to suggest adrenal disease) are most often incidental and should be monitored.

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).

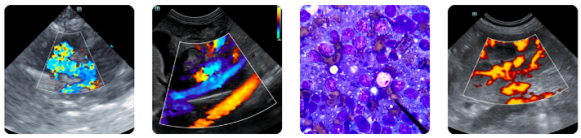
It is a good indicator of active liver damage (cell membrane disruption, cellular necrosis), however, if the value is increased by at least 3-4 times normal. Differentials include infectious disease, including Leptospirosis, inflammatory disease (ie. active hepatitis, copper, other), toxic insult as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

Imaging performed by

pawsonography@gmail.com
530-786-8340



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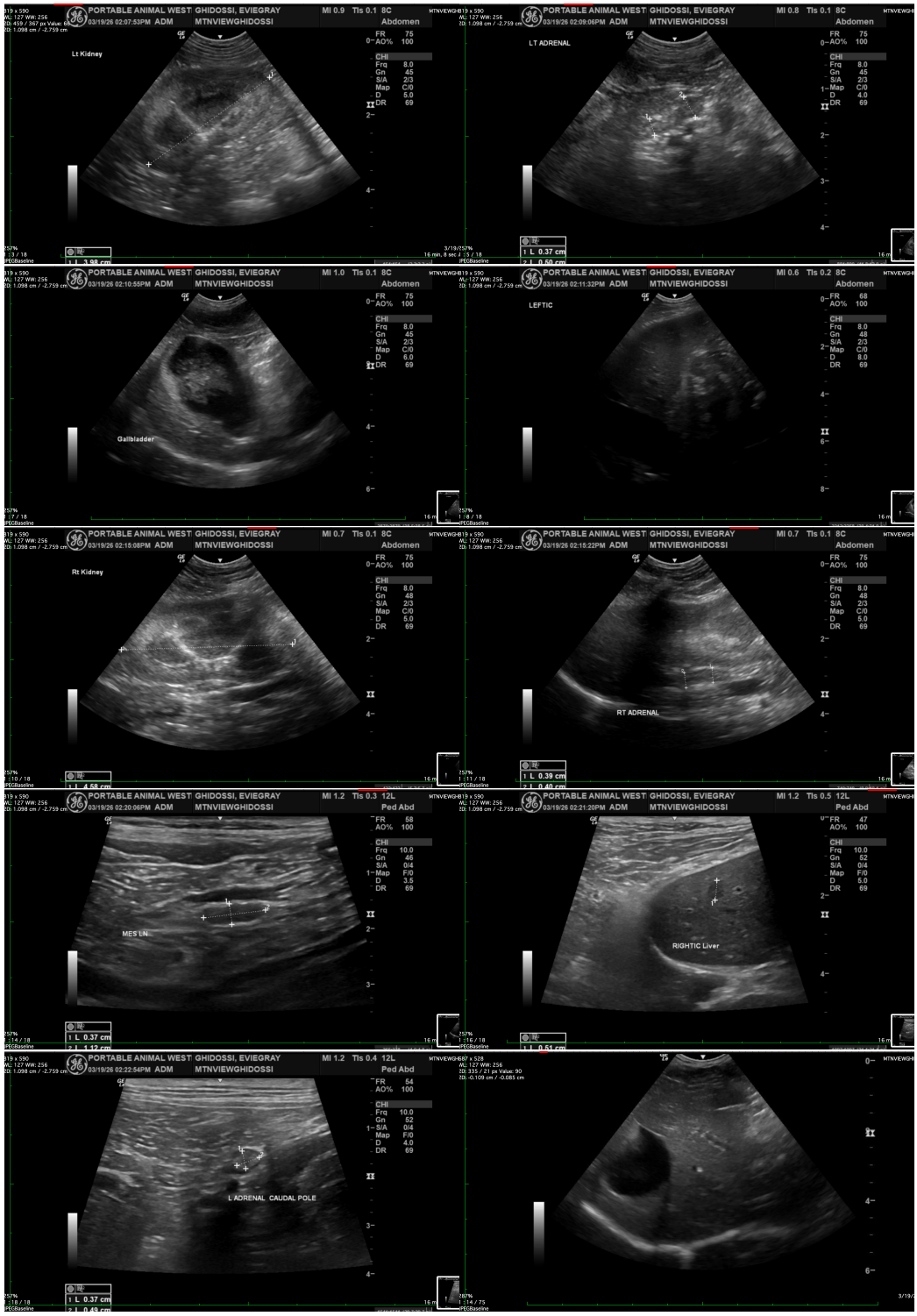

The information and recommendations provided are based on the images presented by the referring veterinarian/sonographer. No evaluation can be communicated regarding pathology that was not

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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