



**PATIENT**

Molly Cortez

**SPECIES**

Canine

**BREED**

Dachshund x Terrier

**SEX**

Spayed Female

**AGE**

8 Years

**WEIGHT**

14.8 Pounds

**INTERPRETED BY**

Beth Johnson, DVM  
DACVIM

**IMAGING PERFORMED BY**

Jen Amidon

**HOSPITAL NAME**

The Pet Hospital of  
Stratford

**REFERRING VET**

Dr. Giuliani

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45740

**DATE**

3/7/23

**PRESENTING CLINICAL SIGNS**

Pt presented in Dec for diarrhea and stomach gurgling w/ no vomit. CPL was elevated on bw (239). Pt given cerenia and i/d low fat diet, and a month later, cpl was decreased (110). O switched pt slowly from i/d to otc low fat diet. Pt presented on 3/1 w/ diarrhea again and vomiting, and cpl was elevated again (838). Pt was put back on i/d and cerenia.

**ULTRASONOGRAPHIC EXAMINATION OF THE ABDOMEN**

**Urinary System**

The urinary bladder is moderately 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 in size (4.68 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 in size (4.04 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 right adrenal gland is normal in size (0.68 cm at the cranial pole and 0.70 cm at the caudal pole), shape and contour. Corticomedullary structure is unremarkable. Visible surrounding vasculature appears normal.

The left adrenal gland is normal in size (0.70 cm at the cranial pole and 0.73 cm at the caudal pole), shape and contour. Corticomedullary structure is unremarkable. 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 with mildly irregular margins. Parenchyma is heterogenous characterized by multiple poorly defined hypoechoic nodules within otherwise hyperechoic liver parenchyma. In the deep mid liver, there is a more discrete 2.0 cm x 2.6 cm homogeneous, iso- to slightly hypoechoic nodule/mass. 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 stomach wall is normal in thickness (canine < 0.5 cm and feline < 0.4 cm) 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 (canine duodenum < 0.5 cm and feline duodenum < 0.4 cm; other < 0.3 cm). Small intestinal motility appears adequate (1-3 contractions



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per min). The lumen of the small intestine is empty with 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.

**Pancreas**

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The observed pancreas appears appropriately isoechoic to surrounding omental fat. The capsule is mildly irregular in shape. Parenchyma is mildly heterogenous and coarse. There is no visible pancreatic duct dilation. There is no evidence of active peripancreatic inflammation.

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**Free Abdomen**

There is no evidence of free peritoneal effusion noted in these images.

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There is no apparent lymphadenopathy noted in these images.

**ULTRASONOGRAPHIC FINDINGS**

**WEIGHT**

14.8 Pounds

- **Heterogenous liver with a discrete deep liver nodule/mass** – These changes are most consistent with benign processes such as nodular hyperplasia, steroid (vacuolar) hepatopathy, extramedullary hematopoiesis or possibly chronic inflammatory disease and less commonly infiltrative round cell or metastatic neoplasia. The nodule/mass may also represent nodular hyperplasia or other benign lesion such as an adenoma/hepatoma. Infiltrative neoplasia is possible but considered less likely.
- **Pancreatic age-related remodeling** – Mild irregularities are consistent with benign age-related change. Low-grade smoldering chronic pancreatitis cannot be ruled out and should be suspected in the face of appropriate clinical signs.

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DACVIM

**INTERPRETATION OF THE FINDINGS & FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS**

**IMAGING PERFORMED BY**

Jen Amidon

Next diagnostic recommendations include an overall general metabolic evaluation (CBC, chemistry panel with electrolytes, urinalysis, and fecal exam if not recently evaluated), followed by:

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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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A fecal enteropathogen PCR panel to Texas A&M GI Laboratory could be considered for further evaluation of possible infectious disease.

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In the meantime, supportive/symptomatic medical management of clinical signs is recommended, including a probiotic (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 attempts may be required. Or, in this patient specifically, if a veterinary prescribed low-fat diet has worked in the past, a low-fat diet could be reinstated.

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Ultimately, if clinical signs persist, and a diagnosis is not reached, further evaluation of the GI tract via upper and lower endoscopy for visualization and biopsies may be warranted.



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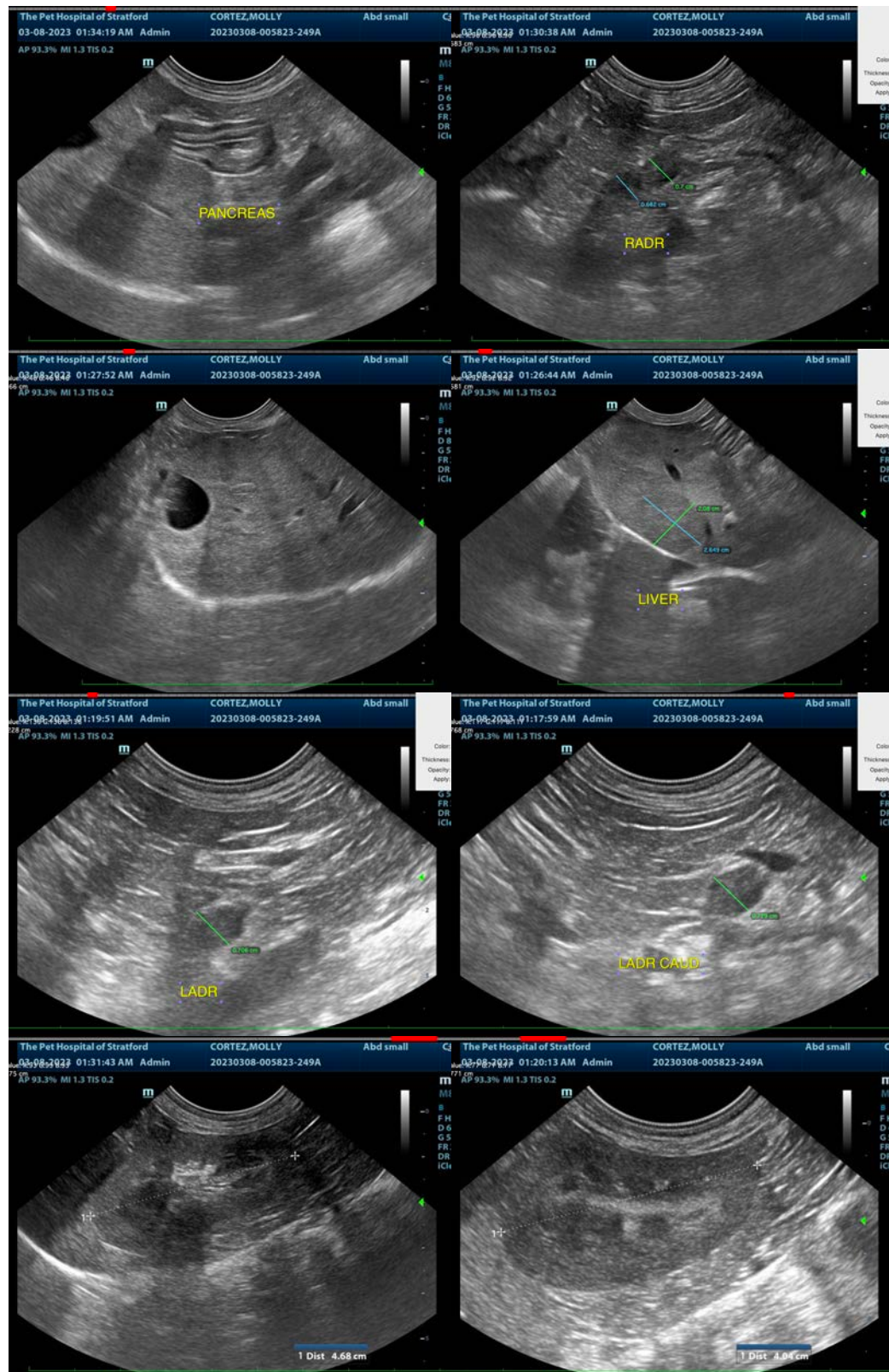
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The information and recommendations provided are based on the images presented by the referring veterinarian/sonographer. No evaluation can be communicated regarding pathology that was not visible in the image/video clips provided.

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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.

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Beth.Johnson@sonopath.com

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