



PATIENT

Heidi Cummings

SPECIES

Canine

BREED

Labrador Retriever Mix

SEX

FS

AGE

9 years 9 months

WEIGHT

51.2 lbs

INTERPRETED BY

Beth Johnson, DVM
DACVIM

IMAGING PERFORMED BY

Dr. Lucas Budden

HOSPITAL NAME

Frontier Veterinary
Hospital

REFERRING VET

Dr. Lucas Budden

INVOICE

11970

DATE

5/18/2026

PRESENTING CLINICAL SIGNS

"Slowing down" per owners and weight gain. Seen for annual on 5/11/26. Chronic history of ALP elevation. Sudden jump on lab work collected 5/11/26. Concern for Cushing's on lab work. UTI diagnosed and starting antibiotics today. No PU/PD or polyphagia currently. Skin appears normal.

Current medications: Dexdomitor and Butorphanol to facilitate ultrasound.

Abnormal PE/Chem/CBC/UA Results: Physical exam: BCS 6/9, mild dental tartar, peripheral LNs normal, normal exam otherwise Lab work: Senior panel + urine culture 5/11/26 ALT high 350 ALP high 2113 GGT high 24 Remainder of chemistry normal CBC normal Thyroid low 0.6 USG 1.007 Bacteria rods 26-50 Acu Plex all negative Urine culture positive for E. coli and Enterococcus.

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 (7.19 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 (6.79 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 (1.1 cm at cranial pole and 0.9 cm at caudal pole), shape and overall architecture, echogenicity and echotexture. Visible surrounding vasculature appears normal.

The left adrenal gland is normal in size (0.67 cm at cranial pole and 0.84 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. Nodule does not disrupt normal shape and/or architecture and measures 0.7 cm in diameter.

Spleen

The spleen is subjectively normal except for, in several views that reveal an indented capsule in an area of hyperechoic tissue suspicious for a possible chronic infarct. Myelolipoma versus other hyperechoic benign chronic inflammatory lesions, granulomas, etc. can't be ruled out.

Liver

Liver is subjectively enlarged (swollen contour) without disruption of architecture. It has a normal homogenous echotexture. Parenchyma is diffusely hyperechoic characterized by less prominent than normal portal vein walls and increased echogenicity relative to the spleen and falciform fat. 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.

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 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.

Free Abdomen

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

There is no apparent pathologic lymphadenopathy noted in these images.

ULTRASONOGRAPHIC FINDINGS

- Hyperechoic hepatomegaly – This appearance is non-specific and most consistent with a benign steroid (endocrine) or vacuolar hepatopathy or reactive or idiopathic hepatopathy. Inflammatory and/or infiltrative disease (such as round cell neoplasia) are also possible, but considered less likely.
- 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.
- Pancreatic age-related remodeling/Chronic pancreatitis – 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.
- Hyperechoic adrenal nodule in the caudal pole of the left adrenal gland – 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



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metastatic disease) and/or clinical signs (to suggest adrenal disease) are most often incidental and should be monitored.

- Suspect chronic infarct in the spleen versus other, as described above.

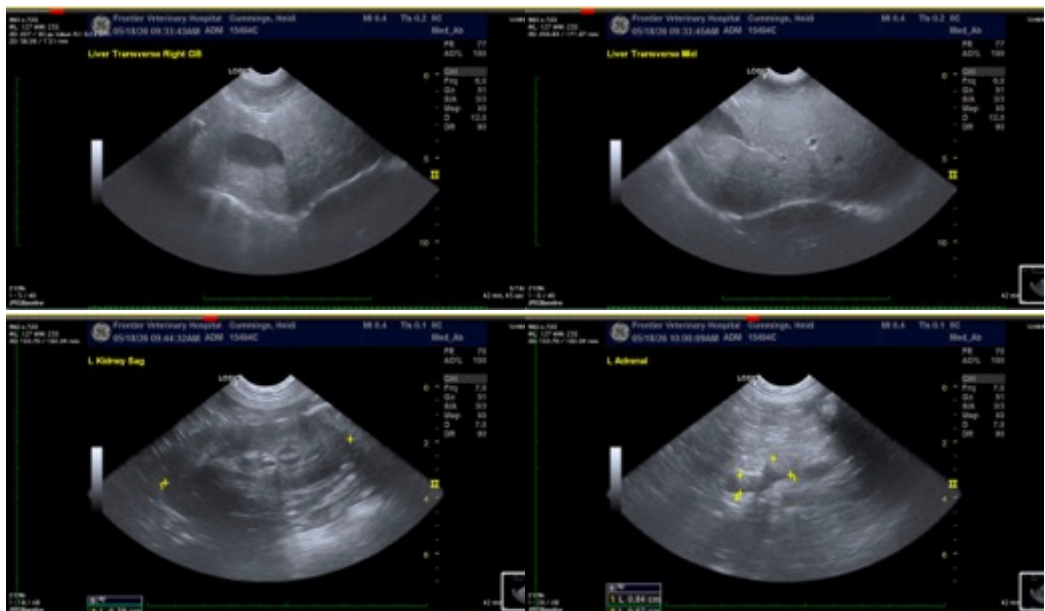
INTERPRETATION OF THE FINDINGS & FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Management of patient's newly diagnosed urinary tract infection may result in an improvement in clinical signs.

In the meantime, further workup of possible hypothyroidism versus sick thyroid syndrome is recommended.

Otherwise, differentials for a primary cholestatic liver enzyme pattern (increased ALP) are vast and non-specific. Differentials include, but are not limited to, benign nodular hyperplasia which occurs in 70% of older dogs and often does not result in an abnormal ultrasound, reactive or idiopathic/vacuolar hepatopathy, cholestasis and/or hyperadrenocorticism as well as many chronic non-hepatobiliary diseases such as chronic infections/inflammation from dental disease, IBD, neoplasia, hyperlipidemia, hypothyroidism, chronic pancreatitis, chronic stress, etc.

- Adrenocortical testing such as a low dose dexamethasone suppression test could be considered if clinical signs of hyperadrenocorticism are present.
- Given the gallbladder debris, empirical hepatic nutraceuticals including ursodiol could be considered while monitoring for improvement.
- A fine needle aspirate of the liver could be considered if patient's coagulation status is appropriate.
- Otherwise, recommendations include addressing any other concurrent disease and monitoring. If values are progressive, recheck imaging is recommended.
- A blood pressure is recommended if not recently evaluated.





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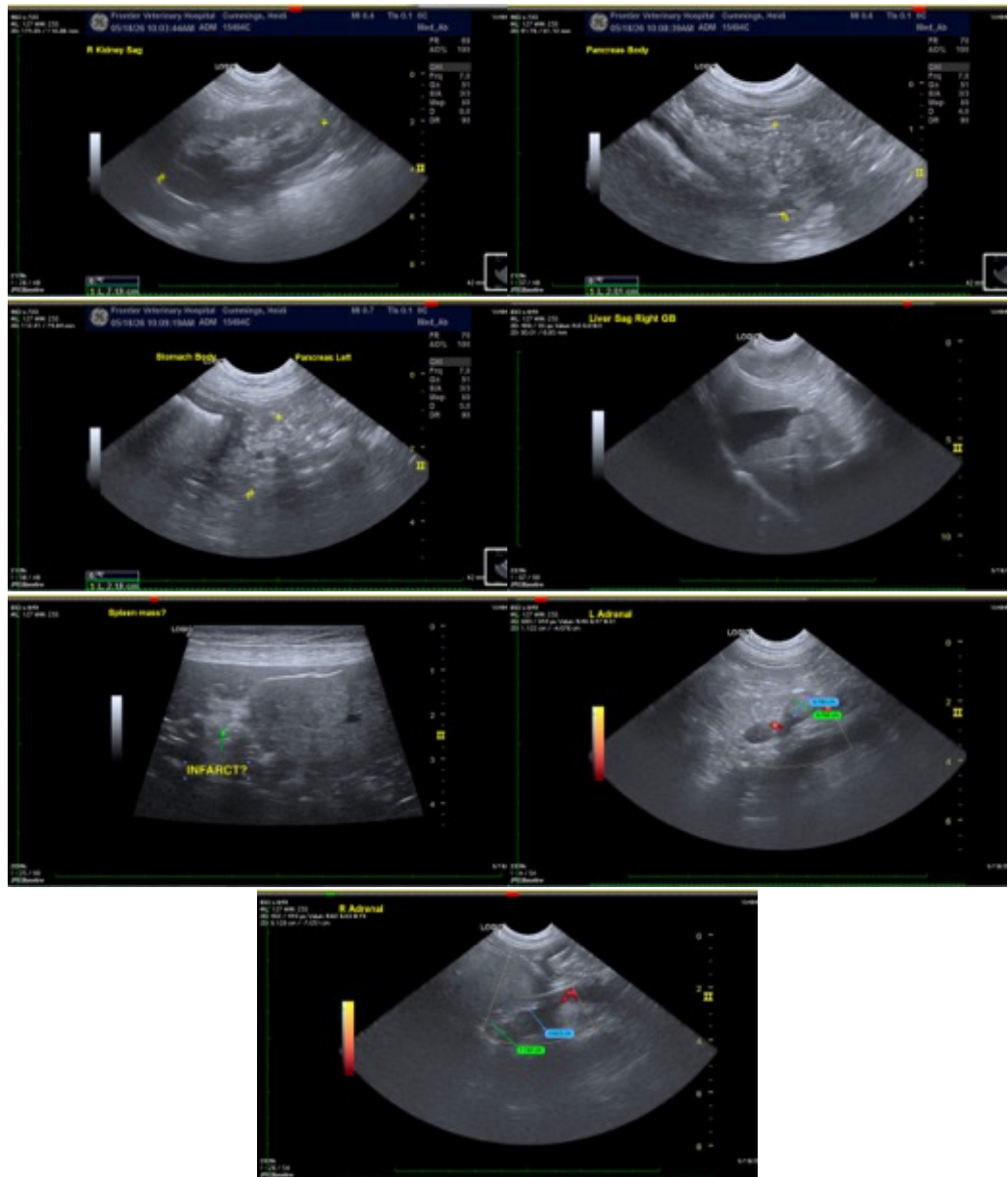
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The information and recommendations provided are based on the images presented by the referring veterinarian/sonographer. No evaluation can be communicated regarding pathology that was not visible in the image/video clips provided.

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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