



**PATIENT**

Mr. Jenkins  
Zachariades

**SPECIES**

Canine

**BREED**

Mini Schnauzer

**SEX**

Neutered Male

**AGE**

14 Years

**WEIGHT**

23 Lbs.

**PRESENTING CLINICAL SIGNS**

History: Grade IV/VI heart murmur; pulmonary edema; syncopal episodes suspected

**ULTRASONOGRAPHIC EXAMINATION OF THE HEART**

CANINE CARDIAC PARAMETERS	MR VMAX (m/s)	TR VMAX (m/s)	LA/AO (Boon method)	LA/AO (Heart Base; Swe)	FS (%)	EF (%)	EPSS (cm)
<b>NORMAL PARAMETER</b>	4.5-5.5	<2.7	1.3	<1.6	28-40	40-100	<0.6
<b>PATIENT</b>	5.2	3.6	1.3	1.03	52	85	0.1
CANINE CARDIAC PARAMETERS	HR (BPM)	AV VMAX (m/s)	PV MAX (m/s)	BODY WEIGHT (kg)	LA 2D short axis Base view (cm)	LVIDd Avg; 2D and m-mode short axis (cm)	LVIDs Avg; 2D and m-mode short axis (cm)
<b>NORMAL PARAMETER</b>	50-100	0.7-1.7	0.7-1.6				
<b>PATIENT</b>	112	1.0	.70	--	2.3	2.2	--

**Cardiac Presentation**

The **echocardiogram** presented a prominent **right heart** with mild **right ventricular** hypertrophy with normal **right atrial** size. No evidence of neoplasia was noted in the right auricle, or elsewhere in the heart. The **pulmonary artery** was uniformly prominent with mildly depressed pulmonic velocity measured on PW Doppler. Pulmonic insufficiency noted at 3.2 m/s. No overt heartworms were noted in the main or visible deep pulmonary arteries. Yet, theoretically heartworms could be present in the deep pulmonary vasculature out of visible sonographic range. More likely, however, this prominent right heart is due to excessive intra-thoracic pressures caused by chronic respiratory disease or potentially excessive intra-thoracic fat (Pickwickian syndrome). The **left heart** demonstrated a linear **ventricular septum**. Contractility was functionally adequate demonstrated by the FS% measurement. Minor aortic insufficiency noted at 2.0 m/s. The cranial and caudal **mitral** valve leaflets presented vegetative thickening consistent with endocardiosis. Doppler indicated measurable insufficiency. The **left ventricular outflow** demonstrated normal flow patterns and velocities through the aortic valve. No evidence of tumor, pericardial or pleural effusion was noted. The visible **extra-cardiac** tissues were uniformly linear without evidence of masses, infiltrative or inflammatory mediastinal tissue. No evident arrhythmic activity was noted during the exam. Tricuspid valve revealed a vegetative septal leaflet and prolapse. Comet tail lung pattern noted through the diaphragm, indicative of alveolar disease.

**INTERPRETED BY**

Eric Lindquist, DMV  
DABVP, Cert. IVUSS

**IMAGING PERFORMED BY**

Jessica Miller

**HOSPITAL NAME**

Westwood RVH

**REFERRING VET**

Dr. Giammanco

**INVOICE**

13165

**DATE**

12/27/21

**ULTRASONOGRAPHIC FINDINGS**

- Right sided cardiac enlargement with pulmonary hypertension and dysplastic tricuspid valve.

**INTERPRETATION OF THE FINDINGS & FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS**



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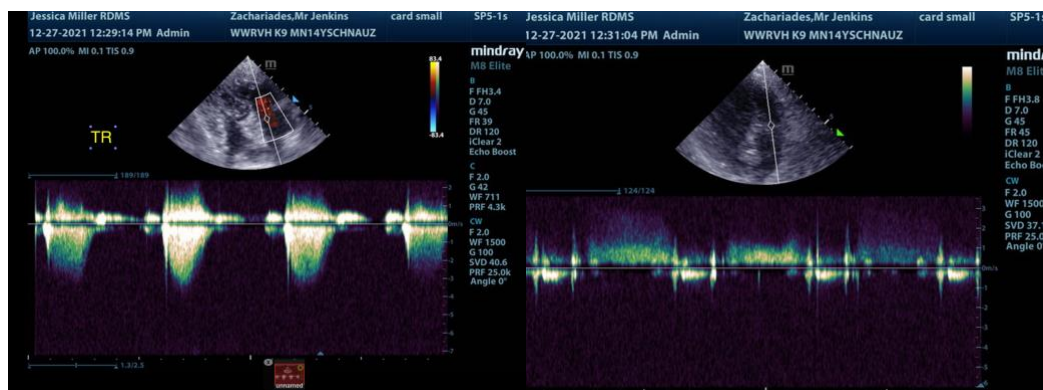
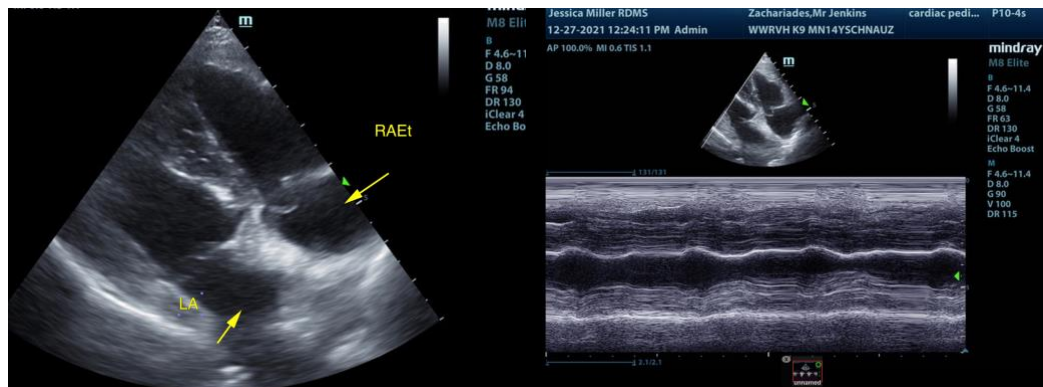
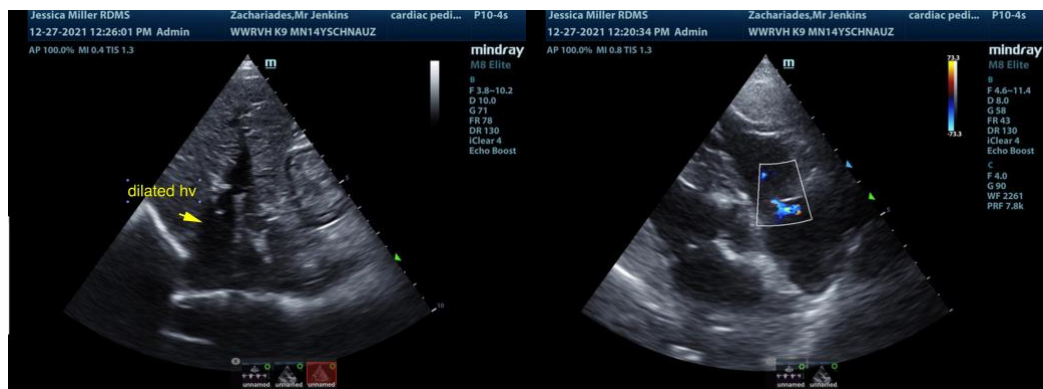
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Syncope may be owing to pulmonary hypertension. However, paroxysmal arrhythmia is also a potential. Blood pressure measurements warranted. If systolic pressure is >160, then ace-inhibitor therapy warranted. Otherwise, sildenafil trial could be considered at 1 mg per kg BID, increasing to 1.5 mg per kg BID after 2 weeks, monitoring blood pressures and azotemia. Primary respiratory protocol recommended given the chronic bronchial changes. Structural defect of the tricuspid valve along with chronic bronchial issues likely playing a role in this patient increasing pulmonary hypertension. Bronchodilator, broad spectrum antibiotics also warranted. Holter monitor would be ideal in this patient to assess for paroxysmal arrhythmia. Recheck echo in one month or earlier if clinical signs worsen.





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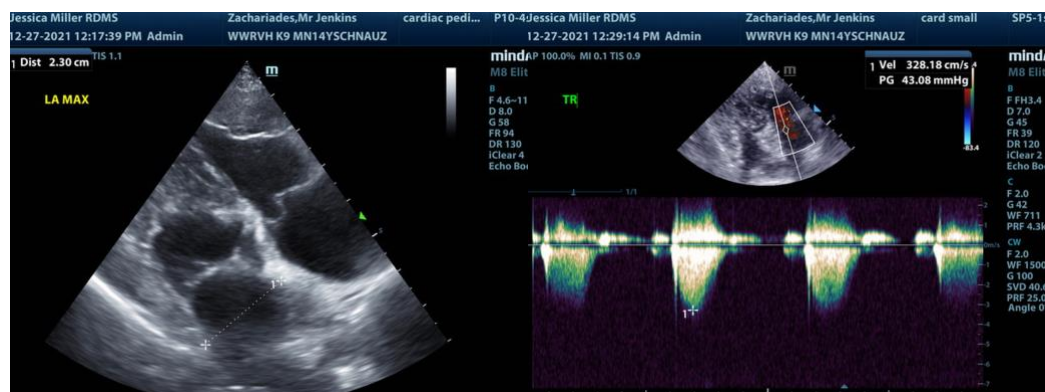
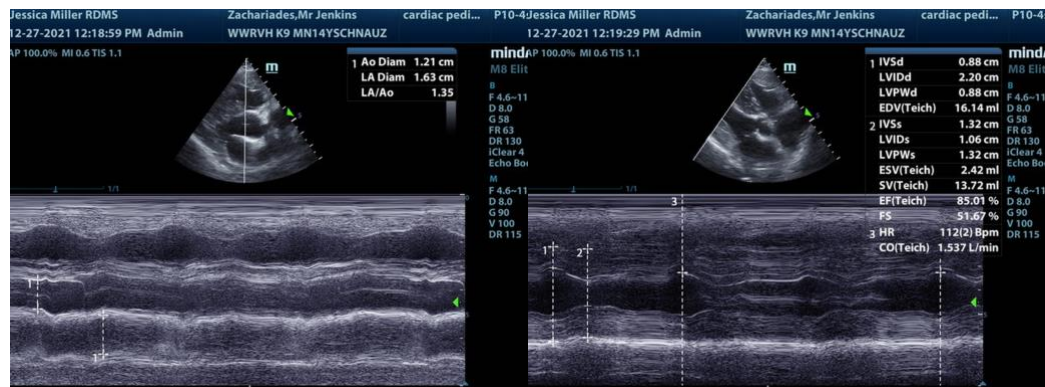
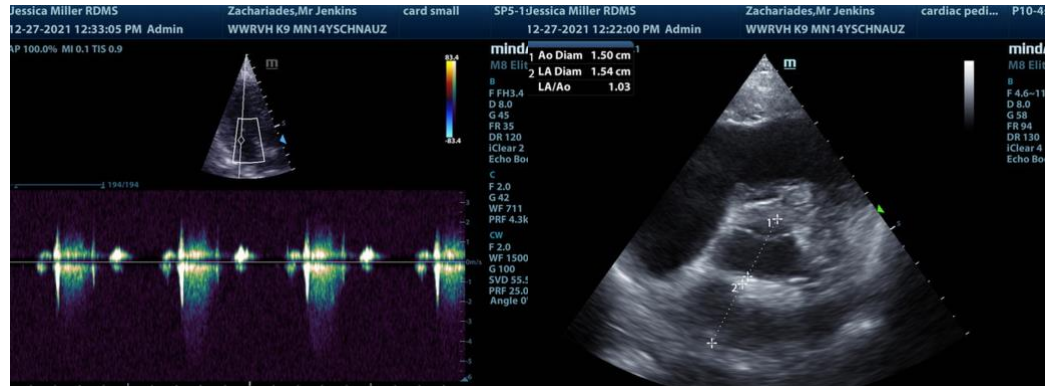
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The information and recommendations provided are based on the images presented by the referring veterinarian. No evaluation can be communicated regarding pathology that was not visible in the image/video clips provided.

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.

**Eric Lindquist**, DMV, DABVP, Cert. IVUSS, CEO of SonoPath.com  
[info@SonoPath.com](mailto:info@SonoPath.com)

**Right Heart Disease-General Considerations**



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<http://www.sonopath.com/RightHeartDisease>

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**Description:** Right heart disease is often an incidental finding, which can be either cardiogenic or secondary to respiratory or systemic disease. The coughing patient with right heart disease may present with primary respiratory disease (i.e., bronchial collapse, collapsing trachea, pneumonitis) and suffer from secondary pulmonary hypertension (PHT). Concurrent mitral valve disease and chronic left-sided congestive heart failure (CHF) might also lead to PHT. The dyspeic patient with right heart enlargement might have pulmonary hypertension due to airway disease, chronic CHF, parenchymal lung disease (e.g. pulmonic fibrosis), or a cardiac shunt with secondary PHT and shunt reversal.

Primary cardiac causes of right heart enlargement include: tricuspid dysplasia/degeneration; pulmonic stenosis; pulmonic insufficiency; atrial or septal defects; patent ductus arteriosus; right auricular masses; and pericardial peritoneal diaphragmatic hernias. The second most common cause of right-sided enlargement is secondary PHT, which results in high-velocity tricuspid insufficiency (TR vel.>2.8 m/sec) and pulmonic insufficiency due to diseases that cause increased pulmonary vascular resistance or increased pulmonary wedge pressures. The most common cause of secondary PHT is left-sided heart failure (LHF), which presents radiographically as a more globoid-shaped heart with marked left atrial and ventricular enlargement. There are also signs of left-sided CHF as opposed to a simple prominent cranial waist or reverse D radiographic presentation.

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Secondary, non-cardiac causes of PHT include: acute or chronic respiratory disease; pulmonary thromboembolic disease; thoracic neoplasia; excessive thoracic fat deposition (e.g. Pickwickian syndrome, which leads to chronic hypoxia); brachycephalic syndrome; high altitude disease; heartworm disease; and primary vascular disease.

**IMAGING PERFORMED BY**

Jessica Miller

**HOSPITAL NAME**

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**Clinical Signs:** The most common presenting symptoms of right heart disease are collapse, syncope, intermittent or constant acute respiratory distress (e.g. thromboembolic disease), and exercise intolerance.

**REFERRING VET**

Dr. Giammanco

**Diagnostics:** Physical examination may reveal a right-sided apical heart murmur and/or a cranial left heart murmur, a split S2, jugular distension, ascites, and signs consistent with respiratory disease (i.e., cough, wheeze, tracheal collapse, tachypnea). Radiographic findings may reveal an enlarged right atrium, right ventricle, and/or primary/secondary branches of the pulmonary artery. In cases of PHT, an enlarged or engorged pulmonary artery is often present. Tortuous arteries or those that suddenly terminate can indicate the presence of thromboembolic disease or heartworms. An interstitial pattern might indicate the presence of pulmonary parasitism or primary interstitial lung disease. Pulmonic stenosis is suspected if the pulmonic segment is enlarged. ECG findings include tall P and S waves with a right axis shift.

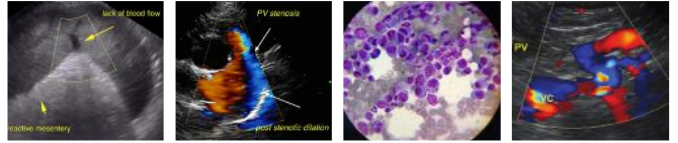
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**Treatment:** Please refer to the chapter “Pulmonary Hypertension” for therapeutic recommendations.



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**References:**

Oyama MA, Rush JE, Rozanski EA, et al. Assessment of serum N-terminal pro-B-type natriuretic peptide concentration for differentiation of congestive heart failure from primary respiratory tract disease as the cause of respiratory signs in dogs. *J Am Vet Med Assoc* 2009;235:1319-25.

Rozanski E. Interstitial lung disease in small animals. Proceedings from American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine Forum, Denver, CO, June 15-18, 2011.

Zoia A, Augusto M, Drigo M, Caldin M. Evaluation of hemostatic and fibrinolytic markers in dogs with ascites attributable to right-sided congestive heart failure. *J Am Vet Med Assoc* 2012;241:1336-43.