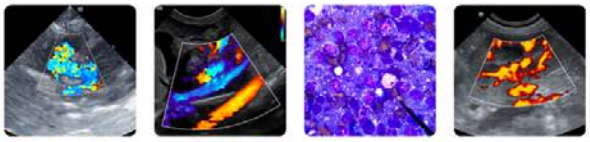


PATIENT

Mitzi Wolfe

SPECIES

Canine

BREED

Toy Poodle

SEX

Spayed Female

AGE

14 Years

WEIGHT

4.4 kg

INTERPRETED BY

Eric Lindquist, DMV, DABVP (CFM), Cert. IVUSS

IMAGING PERFORMED BY

Carlie Koltek, RVT

HOSPITAL NAME

Tuxedo Animal Hospital

REFERRING VET

Dr. Luke Pura

INVOICE

72402

DATE

12/5/25

PRESENTING CLINICAL SIGNS

Presented for a progressively distended and hard abdomen. Long-standing history of gut issues since 2 years of age. Last bloodwork was in February 2025. Last ultrasound was approximately 2 years ago. Good appetite, described as ravenous. Will eat her own food and then the other dogs' food. Has eaten to the point of vomiting and then returned to eat more. Intermittent diarrhea and loose, stinky stools, which have been worsening recently (on tylosin) Coughs frequently, sometimes leading to vomiting (on hycodan) Is hypothyroid (on levothyroxine) Other long term meds: Fluoxetine 5mg - 1 tab SID for anxiety Galliprant 20mg - 1/4 tab SID for arthritis Gabapentin 50mg - 1/2 tab BID

Abnormal PE/Chem/CBC/UA Results: BCS 6/9 T: 38.0 P:120 R:pant MM: pink Abdomen distended and feels hard CBC: WNL CHEM: UREA 10.0 mmol/L (2.5-9.6) ALT 145 U/L (10-125) ALKP 235 U/L (23-212) GGT 15 U/L (0-11) CHOL 7.92mmol/L (2.84-8.26) TT4 WNL Abdominal radiographs: hepatomegaly Pending: random cortisol,

ULTRASONOGRAPHIC EXAMINATION OF THE ABDOMEN

Urinary System

The **urinary bladder**, trigone, and pelvic urethra presented normal thicknesses and normal tone. The ureters were not visible which is normal. No uroliths or sediment were visualized and anechoic urine was present. No evidence of inflammatory or neoplastic changes were noted. Ureteral papillae were normal.

The **kidneys** revealed largely normal size and structure, corticomedullary definition and ratio (cortex 1/3 of medulla) were essentially maintained with some age-related loss of curvilinear patterns regarding the capsule and C/M junction. The cortices presented largely uniform texture with some increased echogenicity expected for his age patient. Medullary structure differed distinctly from that of the cortex and no evidence of pelvic dilation was present. Mineralization noted in both kidneys. Right kidney measured 3.7 cm. Left kidney measured 2.92 cm.

Adrenal Glands

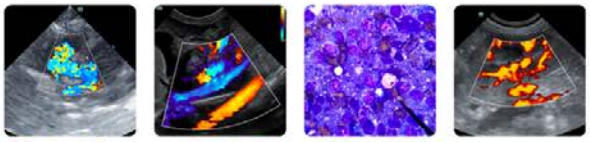
The **adrenal glands** appeared slightly enlarged and swollen. No evidence of focal capsular expansion or invasion into the phrenic veins were noted. No overt suspicion of neoplasia was noted. This is considered likely a hyperplastic change associated with stress or adrenal endocrinopathy (PDH). If isosthenuria is persistently present and the patient morphologically suggests Cushing's disease then ACTH testing would be indicated. Right measured 0.65 cm at the caudal pole and 0.58 cm at the cranial pole. Left measured 0.53 cm at the caudal pole and 0.54 cm at the cranial pole.

Spleen

The **spleen** presented a smooth homogeneous parenchyma hyperechoic to liver and renal cortical parenchyma. The capsule was smooth without noticeable expansion or deviation from within the spleen or adjacent pathology. The splenic vasculature demonstrated normal volume without signs of congestion or thrombosis. No sonographic evidence of acute or chronic inflammatory, neoplastic, or infarctual changes were noted.

Liver

The **liver** images from right and left intercostal as well as subcostal views revealed subjectively normal liver size, contour, and structure. Some age-related parenchymal remodeling was noted but likely not



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clinically significant at this time. Non-disruptive nodular changes noted. Vascular and biliary tracts were of normal volume and no evidence of congestion was noted.

The **gallbladder** was mildly over distended with suspended and dependent debris, yet not to the level of emerging mucocele, yet sludge appears to be mildly excessive. No adjunctive inflammation was noted.

Gastrointestinal

Examination of the **gastrointestinal tract** revealed a stomach and intestine free of stasis, of normal wall thickness, acceptable curvilinear mural detail, and peristaltic activity. Small and large intestine demonstrated normal luminal chyme and stool consistency respectively. No obstructive or overt infiltrative disease was noted. No associated abnormal lymphatic activity was noted.

Pancreas

The base and limbs of the **pancreas** were observed to be largely isoechoic to surrounding omental fat. Some parenchymal remodeling, however, with mild deviation from curvilinear normalcy was observed. Pancreatic duct and capsular irregularities were present consistent with age related changes. If pain upon imaging (+ Murphy sign) was present or if the patient is focally painful in subxyphoid palpation then low-grade smoldering chronic pancreatitis should be suspected.

ULTRASONOGRAPHIC FINDINGS

- Nephrolithiasis, non-obstructive.
- Mild prominent bilateral adrenal hypertrophy.
- Age related hepatic and pancreatic changes.

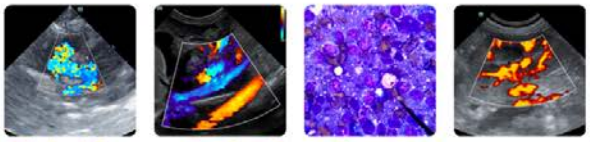
INTERPRETATION OF THE FINDINGS & FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

No evidence of disease responsible for the tense abdomen in this patient. Largely expected changes for this age and breed. FNA of the liver could be considered for further definition of the general parenchyma and nodular changes. Ursodiol can be justified. Recommend assessing for potential referred back pain, given patient history of tense abdomen. If the patient appears cushingoid and USG is <1.020, then workup for Cushing's indicated.

Efficient & Accurate Cushing's Work up-Lindquist

Notes regarding Cushing's Clinical Presentations:

Nearly all Cushing's dogs have SAP elevations and true PU/PD (USG < 1.025) and most are polyphagic. Cushing's dogs are > 6 years and usually > 9 years old, usually have poor skin coats, body scores > 3/5, and are usually sedentary animals.
Its important to remember that Cushing's dogs usually look and play the part and other diseases cause false + stress related cortisol spikes. On rare occasion a Cushing's dog will not follow the rules but this is truly an exception.
Potential Cushing's patient workups can be costly and frustrating if not definitive and, in my experience, the non-definitive patient usually has something else going on that may be contributing to some of the clinical signs a Cushing's dog will have, especially SAP elevations or PU/PD. Based on this prelude of information I came up with the following algorithm in the spirit of diagnostic efficiency.
The following suggested protocol is based on current available literature on Cushing's disease and extensive clinical-sonographic experience evaluation + Cushing's and False + LDDST & ACTH stim. cases in order to maximize the efficiency of a Cushing's workup in practice.



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Screen first, workup second

1) **UA:** Repeatable (2-3 urine samples) Urine specific gravity & urine cortisol/creatinine ratio (UCCR): If ***repeatable USG< 10.20 and + UCCR*** move to next step 2.

Note: UA is inexpensive and easy to obtain and if UA criteria is not met for Cushing's then resources can be spent into other more pertinent diagnostics or left on hold until the UA criteria is met in emerging Cushing's cases.

2) **Sonogram:** Does the patient **have concurrent disease** clinically or sonographically as non-Cushing's illness will influence the potential false + LDDST or even ACTH stim. The sonogram gives a global perspective of the internal health of the patient to be considered in the Cushing's workup as an assessment of concurrent disease. Is there a concurrent neoplastic process, UTI pancreatitis, mucocele….? Are the adrenals enlarged (Cushing's-PDH, stress, age related or breed variant), or atrophied (Iatrogenic Cushing's or adrenal burnout), have asymmetric enlargement (Adrenal tumor, hyperplasia, adenoma, age related variant), or is there vascular invasion (Invasive pheo with false + UA criteria or adenocarcinoma or phrenic thrombosis)? The sonogram answers these questions proactively.

3) **LDDST** (0.01 D-Sodium phosphate mg/kg IV) (Better screening test but plagued with false +) Use if there is potential early Cushing's or if adrenal asymmetry present on sonogram suspecting tumor. Use LDDST in cats at a higher dose (0.1 mg/kg IV).

OR

4) **ACTH stim**. (Better confirming test but can have false +) Use if the patient "looks" Cushingoid or if bilateral adrenal enlargement is present, or high normal width on sonogram, or if iatrogenic Cushing's suspected (Cortisone Tx in past).

5) If **diabetic** then run both LDDST & ACTH stim.

5) Run a **serial blood pressure** in a BP friendly non "white coat effect" atmosphere. Run at least 3 at different times over a few hours or when eating as the patient tends to be calm when eating or give Torbutrol when entering the facility.

6) **Perform CT** of the pituitary to identify macro adenoma expansion if any lethargy or dullness or other central clinical CNS signs are minimally present.

Suggested reading:

Behrend EN, Kooistra HS, Nelson R, et al. Diagnosis of Spontaneous Canine Hyperadrenocorticism: 2012 ACVIM Consensus Statement (Small Animal). J Vet Intern Med 2013;27:1292–1304 .

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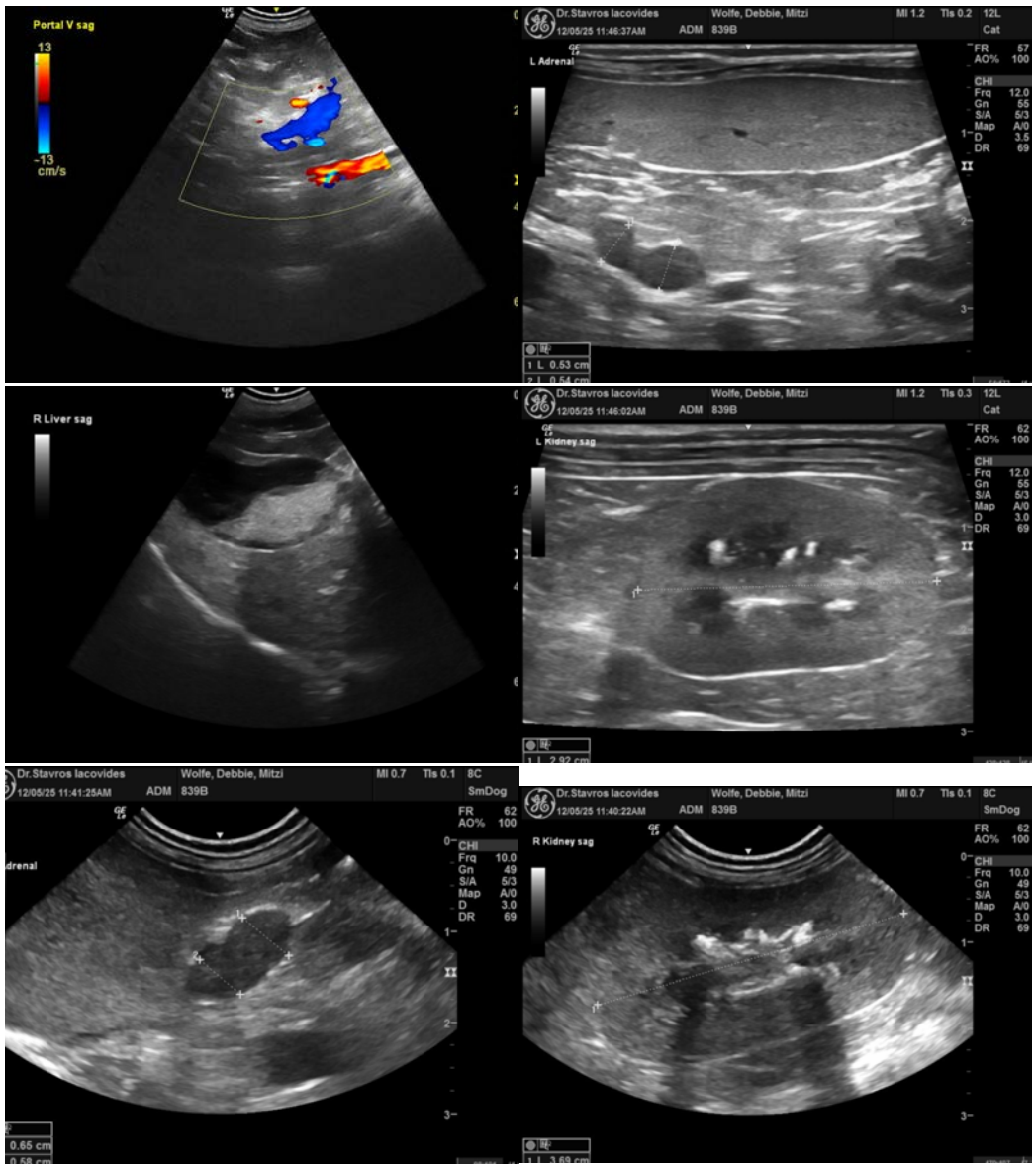

The information and recommendations provided are based on the images presented by the referring veterinarian/sonographer. No evaluation can be communicated regarding pathology that was not visible in the image/video clips provided.

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.

Eric Lindquist, DMV, DABVP(CFM), Cert. IVUSS,
CEO, Owner, Founder -- SonoPath.com
info@SonoPath.com