



PATIENT

Freddie Cuz-Fuentes

SPECIES

Feline

BREED

DSH

SEX

Neutered Male

AGE

12 Years 11 Months

WEIGHT

13.96 Pounds

PRESENTING CLINICAL SIGNS

History: Elevated proBNP on pre-dental BW, weight loss, no murmur on PE. On prednisolone for hx of plasmocytic-lymphocytic stomatitis

Abnormal PE/Chem/CBC/UA Results: BroBNP 150

ULTRASONOGRAPHIC EXAMINATION OF THE HEART & ABDOMEN

FELINE CARDIAC PARAMETERS	BODY WEIGHT (kg)	HR (BPM)	IVSd (cm)	LVIDd (cm)	LVWd (cm)	FS (%)	EF (%)
NORMAL PARAMETER	-----	150-240	0.3-0.6	1.0-2.1	0.25-0.6	35-67	80-100
PATIENT	--	200	0.46	1.45	0.45	42	76
FELINE CARDIAC PARAMETERS	LA/AO (Boon)	LA/AO HEART BASE (Sisson)	LA 2D 4-chamber long axis AS to FW (Sisson) (cm)	LVOT VEL. (m/s)	RVOT VEL. (m/s)	IVRT (m/)	
NORMAL PARAMETER	<1.5	0.88-1.79	0.7-1.7	<1.6	<1.3	40-60	
PATIENT	1.05	1.07	1.2	1.02	1.00	NM	
Adapted from June Boon, Veterinary Echocardiography, 1998 Sisson D et al. JVIM 1991; 5: 232, Jacobs et al. Am J Vet Res 1985; 46:1705							

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Eric Lindquist, DMV
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IMAGING PERFORMED BY

Jessica Miller

HOSPITAL NAME

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Cardiac Presentation

The echocardiogram in this patient demonstrated normal **left atrial** size based on 3 separate LA measurements. The cranial and caudal **mitral** valve leaflets presented normal linear structure and kinetics. The **left ventricle** presented normal thicknesses with linear contour and was not dilated nor restricted. The **myocardium** presented normal echogenicity without subjective evidence of significant fibrotic or ischemic disease. **Contractility** of the ventricular walls was adequate and in normal range for this patient evidenced by the fractional shortening measurement and subjective evaluation of the different regions and angles of the myocardium. The **left ventricular outflow** tract demonstrated normal laminar flow and subjective structural integrity. The **right atrium** and auricle revealed normal size, structure and content. No evidence of masses was noted or chamber overload. **Tricuspid** valvular assessment demonstrated adequate linear morphology and kinetics. The **right ventricle** was of normal size (1/3 diameter of LV), chordae structure, myocardial echogenicity and thickness. **Pulmonic** tract assessment revealed normal valve structure, laminar flow, and diameter (approx.1:1 pa/ao ratio). No visible **pericardial** or free pleura fluid was noted or extra cardiac pathology in the visible planes. The cranial **mediastinum and pericardial regions** were free of masses in the visible window.

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 pelvic urethra was imaged 3.0 cm beyond the cystourethral junction.



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The **kidneys** revealed largely normal size and structure, corticomedullary definition and ratio (cortex 1/3 of medulla) were essentially maintained with some minor 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. The right kidney measured 4.37 cm. The left kidney measured 4.21 cm.

Adrenal Glands

Both **adrenal glands** were visualized and recognized as having normal shape, size, position and echogenicity for this breed. The phrenic vasculature, glandular echogenicity and detail were unremarkable. Capsule, cortex, and medullary definition were normal for this age patient. The right adrenal gland measured 1.39 cm. The left adrenal gland measured 0.54 cm.

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 submitted revealed subjectively normal liver size, contour, and structure. Parenchymal echogenicity was naturally coarse and hypoechoic to the spleen. Vascular and biliary tracts were of normal volume with no evidence of congestion. The gallbladder presented acceptably thin walls with primarily anechoic content. The cystic and common bile ducts were normal. No pathological hepatic lymphadenopathy was evident. No overt structural evidence of inflammatory, infiltrative or regenerative pathology was evident.

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. Pancreatic duct and capsular contour were acceptably normal and parenchyma respected normal curvilinear patterns. No overt evidence of active inflammatory or neoplastic disease was noted.

ULTRASONOGRAPHIC FINDINGS

- Normal echocardiogram- no evidence of structural or functional pathology.
- Structurally unremarkable abdomen- no evidence of pathology.

INTERPRETATION OF THE FINDINGS & FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

The cause of weight loss is not evident. No contraindication to anesthetic procedure if necessary. Prednisolone, technically, could be suppressing a more significant presentation, however, no minimal



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evidence of structure disease is noted. Maldigestion panel, three view chest radiographs and full CNS examination is recommended to examine for occult disease that could be responsible for the weight loss. Evaluation for competitive eating environments should also be considered.

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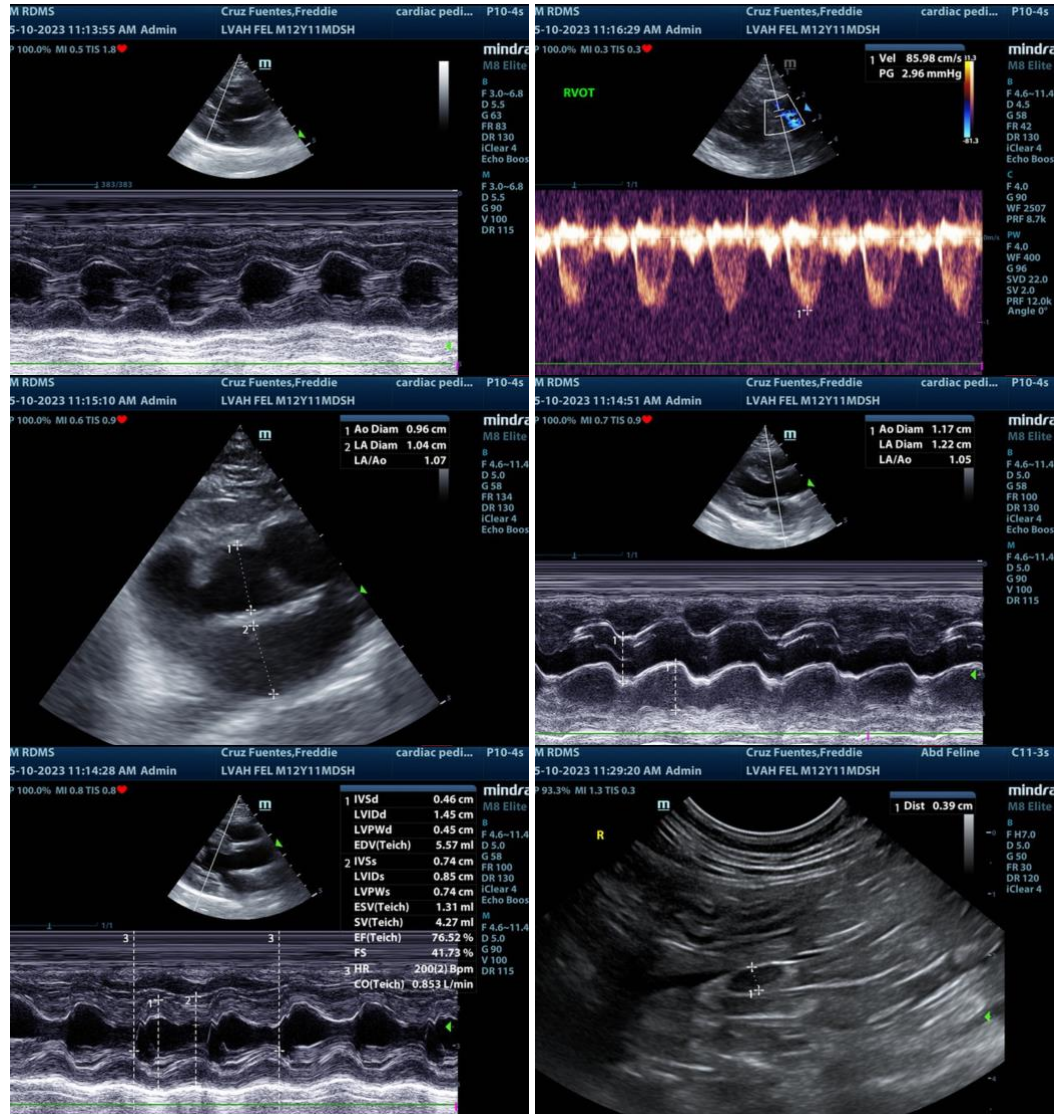
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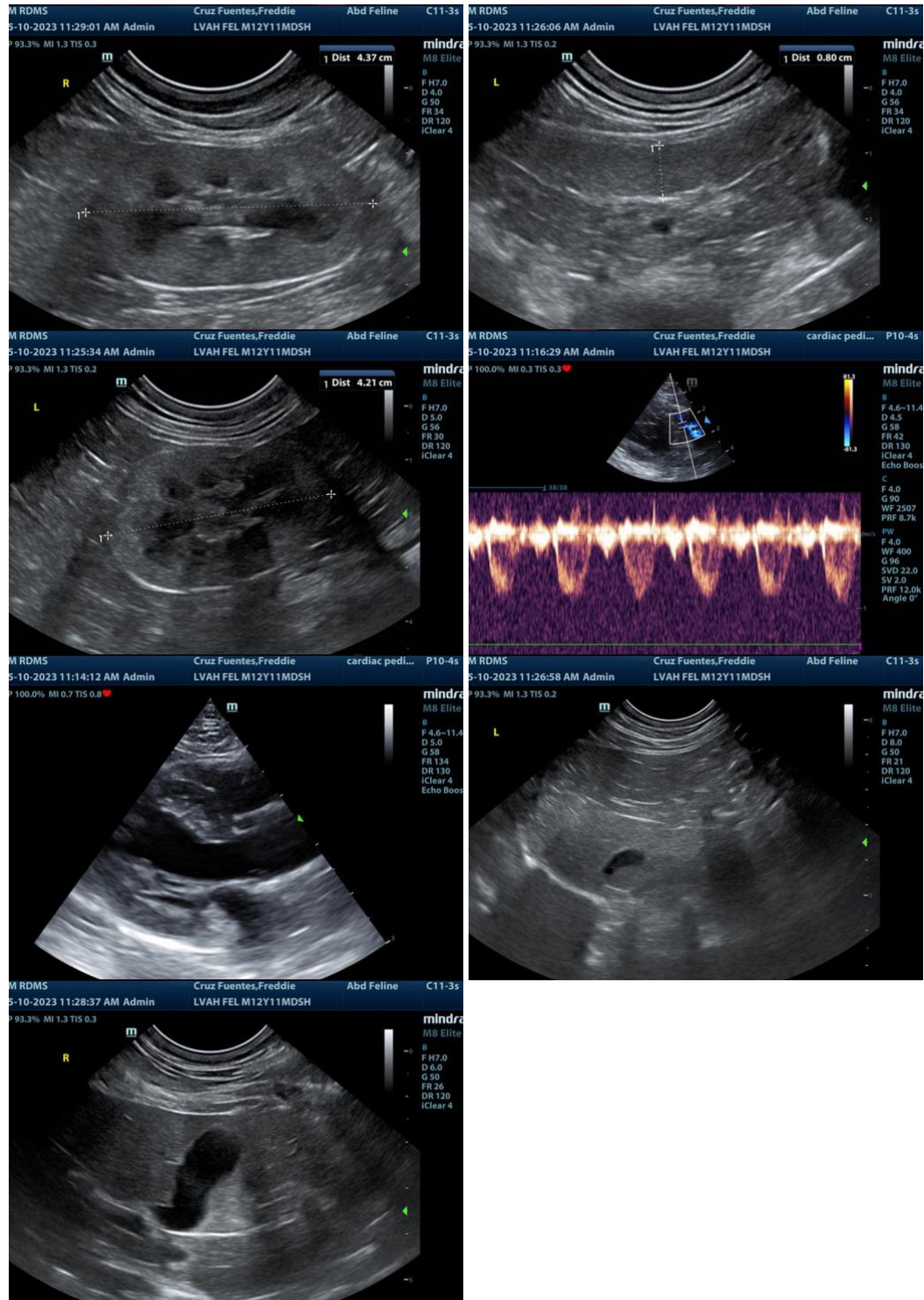
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The information and recommendations provided are based on the images presented by the referring veterinarian. No evaluation can be communicated regarding pathology that was not visible in the image/video clips provided.

Thank you for this referral. If the clinical or image interpretation does not parallel your findings or if I



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can be of any further assistance please contact me.

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Biomarkers: NT-ProBNP Testing in Clinical Practice

BREED

DSH

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

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Neutered Male

Natriuretic peptides have been widely demonstrated to be useful as markers of the presence and severity of cardiac disease. Brain natriuretic peptide (BNP) is secreted by the heart's ventricles in response to an increase in intracardiac hydrostatic pressure, increased cardiac wall stress, angiotensin II, myocardial hypoxia, and heightened sympathetic tone. BNP is synthesized as a prohormone precursor and is converted to the prohormone form in the ventricular myocytes. NT-proBNP is formed when its parent prohormone, proBNP, is cleaved into two molecules: NT-proBNP and C-BNP. In circulation, C-BNP rapidly degrades and is therefore difficult to measure in laboratory tests; however, NT-proBNP possesses a much longer half-life and is much easier to detect. Measuring NT-proBNP concentrations using the Cardiopet® proBNP test (IDEXX Laboratories) is recommended in the evaluation of heart failure in dogs and cats.

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Several studies evaluating NT-proBNP in the veterinary population have documented its importance. In one study, NT-proBNP concentrations were significantly different for: healthy control dogs and dogs with cardiac disease; dogs with cardiac disease and congestive heart failure (CHF) and dogs with cardiac disease without CHF; and dogs with cardiac disease and cardiomegaly and dogs with cardiac disease without cardiomegaly. NT-proBNP levels have also been shown to offer a means of distinguishing between dogs diagnosed with cardiac disease and those diagnosed with respiratory disease but with no evidence of cardiac disease. In dogs with cardiomyopathy, the proBNP test demonstrated adequate sensitivity and specificity to be of diagnostic use.

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Indications for use:

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The proBNP test can be used to screen dogs with murmurs that are preclinical and as a guide for determining whether additional and more expensive diagnostic tests are required. In one study, NT-proBNP increased in proportion to the grade of murmur and degree of cardiac disease. Using NT-proBNP as a screening mechanism would be especially useful in at-risk breeds, such as Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Cocker Spaniels, Dobermans, and Boxers.

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One should evaluate NT-proBNP levels in puppies with severe murmurs and cases of patent ductus arteriosus (PDA), which can cause cardiomegaly in very young dogs. Elevated levels in a young dog would indicate the need for further testing.

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Since auscultation is not very sensitive, assessing NT-proBNP levels may be especially useful for detecting subclinical heart disease in cats. If NT-proBNP is high, then additional imaging, such as radiographs and ultrasound, would be indicated. Reports indicate that NT-proBNP is higher in feline patients with systemic hypertension, severe renal failure, and hyperthyroidism. Therefore,

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blood pressures, renal parameters, and thyroid levels should be assessed to complete the interpretation of the results. Evaluating NT-proBNP may provide better screening information than standard auscultation, as cats without murmurs can have significant disease. Screening should be pursued in cats with breed predispositions (e.g. Maine Coon), murmurs, and gallops.

In animals with dyspnea, cough, and/or respiratory distress, the test can offer a good means of differentiating between primary cardiac disease and pulmonary disease. Because NT-proBNP testing provides immediate information, it may become increasingly common once the bedside test becomes available.

Range of values:

Dogs:

- 500 pmol/l: Normal. Clinically significant heart disease is not present. If there is dyspnea, it is not due to CHF.
- 500-1100 pmol/l: Elevated. Heart disease may be present. Pursue additional diagnostics, especially if compatible signs are present.
- 1100-1725 pmol/l: Elevated and consistent with heart disease and possibly CHF. Additional workup strongly recommended.
- > 1725 pmol/l: Significantly elevated. CHF is probable and thus likely to be the cause of dyspnea.

Cats:

- < 45 pmol/l: Normal. Clinically significant heart disease is not present. If there is dyspnea, it is not due to CHF.
- 45-70 pmol/l: Elevated. Heart disease may be present. Pursue additional diagnostics, especially if compatible signs are present.
- 70-180 pmol/l: Elevated and consistent with heart disease and possibly CHF. Additional workup strongly recommended.
- > 180 pmol/l: Significantly elevated. CHF is probable and thus likely to be the cause of dyspnea.

Sample submission to IDEXX Laboratories:

A special submission tube from IDEXX is ideally required for the submission of NT-proBNP samples. Blood is collected in an EDTA tube and then immediately centrifuged. The plasma is then transferred into the IDEXX tube (or, if not available, into another EDTA tube) and subsequently frozen. One must submit the sample to IDEXX in a Styrofoam container using specialized cold packs to keep it cold.

Studies that have evaluated NT-proBNP levels:

One study showed that serum NT-proBNP levels are higher in dogs with cardiac disease than in healthy dogs. The test demonstrated 83% sensitivity and 90% specificity; the cutoff level was > 445 pmol/l. NT-proBNP was significantly higher in dogs with class II and III heart disease



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BREED	In another study, dogs with CHF had a much higher NT-proBNP level than dogs with primary respiratory disease (2554 pmol/l vs. 357 pmol/l); however, interestingly, NT-proBNP levels did not correlate with the vertebral heart score or LA:Ao ratio.
DSH	
SEX	In a study with cats, NT-proBNP was significantly elevated in dyspneic cats with cardiac failure compared to cats with primary respiratory disease. The cutoff level was 180 pmol/L and the test demonstrated 94.1% sensitivity and 86.4% specificity. In a study of asymptomatic cats, NT-proBNP levels were used to differentiate between healthy cats and those with occult cardiac disease using a cutoff of 40 pmol/L; the test demonstrated 100% sensitivity and 87.5% specificity.
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INTERPRETED BY	References:
Eric Lindquist, DMV DABVP, Cert. IVUSS	Boswood A, Dukes-McEwen J, Loureiro J, et al. The diagnostic accuracy of different natriuretic peptides in the investigation of canine cardiac disease. <i>J Smal Anim Prac</i> 2008;49:26-32.
IMAGING PERFORMED BY	Fine DM, Declue AE, Reiner CR. Evaluation of circulating amino terminal-pro-B-type natriuretic peptide concentration in dogs with respiratory distress attributable to congestive heart failure or primary pulmonary disease. <i>J Am Vet Med Assoc</i> 2008;232:1674-79.
Jessica Miller	Glaus T, Wess G. Left ventricular hypertrophy in the cat: When hypertrophic cardiomyopathy is not hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. <i>Schweiz Arch Tierheilkd</i> 2010;152:325-30.
HOSPITAL NAME	Oyama MA, Fox PR, Rush JE, et al. Clinical utility of serum N-terminal pro-B-type natriuretic peptide concentration for identifying cardiac disease in dogs and assessing disease. <i>J Am Vet Med Assoc</i> 2008;232:1496-1503.
Long Valley AH	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. <i>J Am Vet Med Assoc</i> 2009;235:1319-25.
REFERRING VET	Oyama MA, Sisson DD, Solter PF. Prospective screening for occult cardiomyopathy in dogs by measurement of plasma atrial natriuretic peptide, B-type natriuretic peptide, and cardiac troponin-I concentrations. <i>Am J Vet Res</i> 2007;68:42-47.
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