



PATIENT PRESENTING CLINICAL SIGNS

Sheba DelaTurre History: Trouble breathing / new heart murmur. Crackles present. Current meds: lasix 200mg, thyo tabs, antiroba

SPECIES Abnormal PE/Chem/CBC/UA Results: phos 6.4, ALT 231, ALP 890, Na 155, K 5.8

Canine **ULTRASONOGRAPHIC EXAMINATION OF THE HEART & ABDOMEN**

BREED

Shih Tzu

SEX

Spayed Female

AGE

17 Years

WEIGHT

8.5 Pounds

CANINE CARDIAC PARAMETERS	MR VMAX (m/s)	TR VMAX (m/s)	LA/AO (Boon method)	LA/AO (Heart Base; Swe)	FS (%)	EF (%)	EPSS (cm)
NORMAL PARAMETER	4.5-5.5	<2.7	1.3	<1.6	28-40	40-100	<0.6
PATIENT	--	4.0	1.84	1.0	25	--	NM
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)
NORMAL PARAMETER	50-100	0.7-1.7	0.7-1.6	BELOW	BELOW	BELOW	BELOW
PATIENT	130	1.00	.40	--	1.42	1.5	--

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Cardiac Presentation

The cardiac presentation in this patient presented subnormal left atrial and left ventricular volume. No significant left sided disease noted, however, overwhelming right sided volume overload and eccentric hypertrophy noted with pulmonary hypertension and right sided congestive heart failure evident in the pulmonic and tricuspid insufficiency velocities. Peripheral lung fields revealed comet tail pattern, consistent with primary lung disease such as thromboembolic episodes or pneumonitis. Hepatic veins were dilated, consistent with passive congestion. Pulmonic insufficiency was noted at 3.0 m/s. Tricuspid insufficiency was noted at 4.0 m/s.

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 moderate 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 3.35 cm. The left kidney measured 3.7 cm.

Adrenal Glands



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Both **adrenal glands** were visualized and recognized as having largely normal shape, size, position and acceptable echogenicity for this age group and breed. Some heterogeneity was noted within the adrenal parenchyma without concerning capsular distortion. These changes are likely age related but should be monitored by sonogram should the patient be suspected of having adrenal disease. The left adrenal gland measured 1.78 cm x 0.49 cm at the caudal pole and 0.42 cm at the cranial pole. The right adrenal gland measured 1.54 cm x 0.53 cm at the caudal pole and 0.47 cm at the caudal 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

Passive congestion in the **liver**, owing to right sided heart failure. The gallbladder and common bile duct were unremarkable.

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

- Right sided congestive heart failure
- Pulmonic and tricuspid insufficiency
- Sever pulmonary hypertension, likely owing to primary respiratory disease, thromboembolic episodes, pneumonitis or similar
- Geriatric abdomen with passive congestion in the liver, owing to right sided heart failure

INTERPRETATION OF THE FINDINGS & FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Extremely guarded prognosis. This patient is at high risk for sudden death. I recommend treatment for primary respiratory disease as well as treatment for right sided heart failure. Bronchodilator, broad spectrum antibiotics and Plavix therapy could also be considered (if thromboembolic disease is suspected). Pimobendan at 0.3 mg per kg BID warranted and Spironolactone at 1-2 mg per kg BID. Eventual sildenafil could also be considered for further refinement if the patient is able to survive this immediate episode. There are two separate issues in this patient, primary respiratory disease as well as secondary right sided heart failure owing to pulmonary hypertension. The heart is secondary to respiratory disease as opposed to respiratory disease owing to primary cardiac disease.



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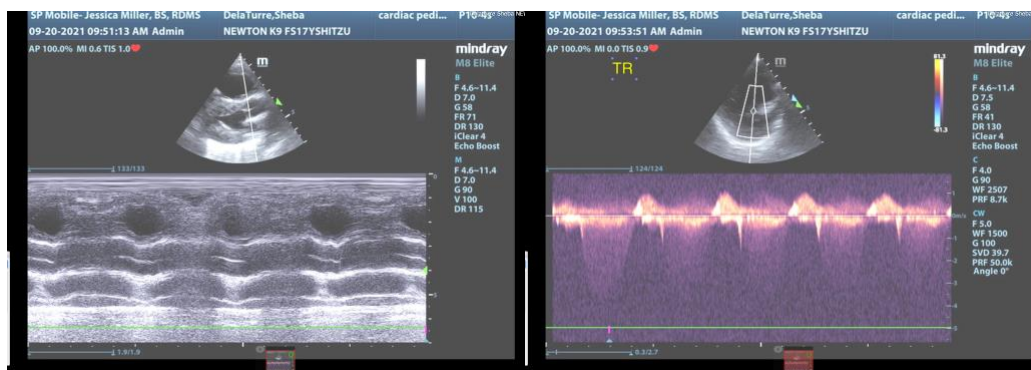
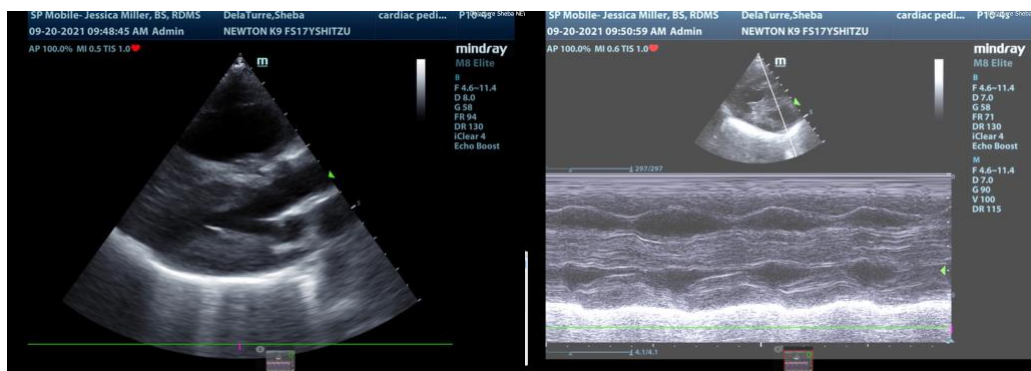
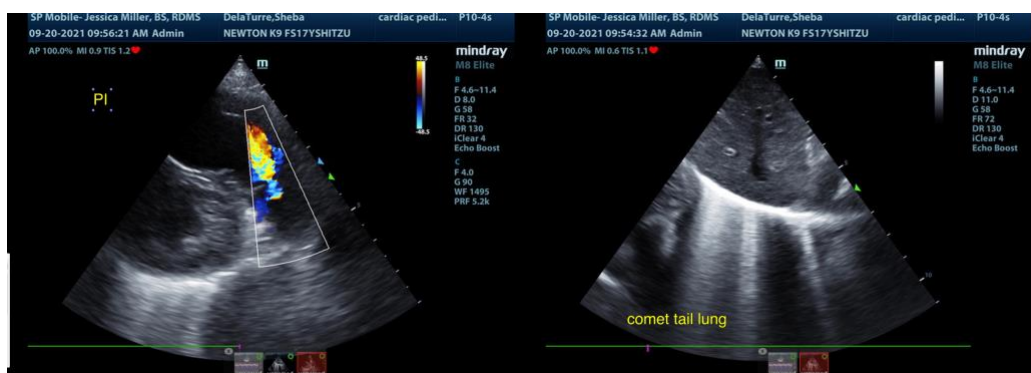
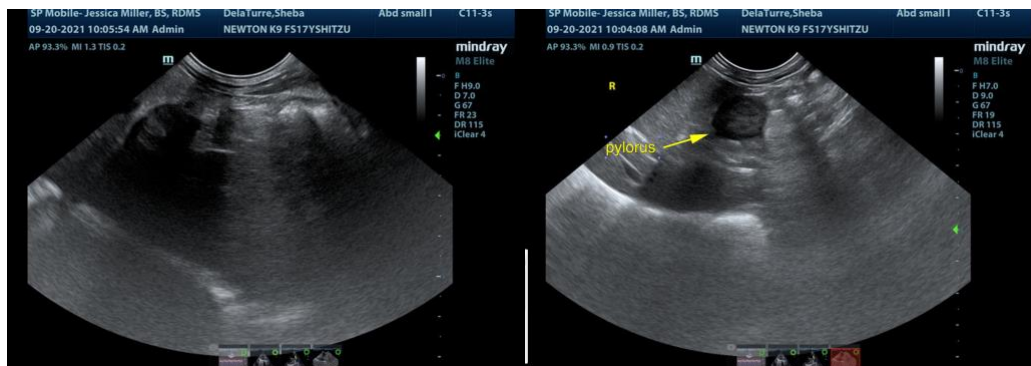
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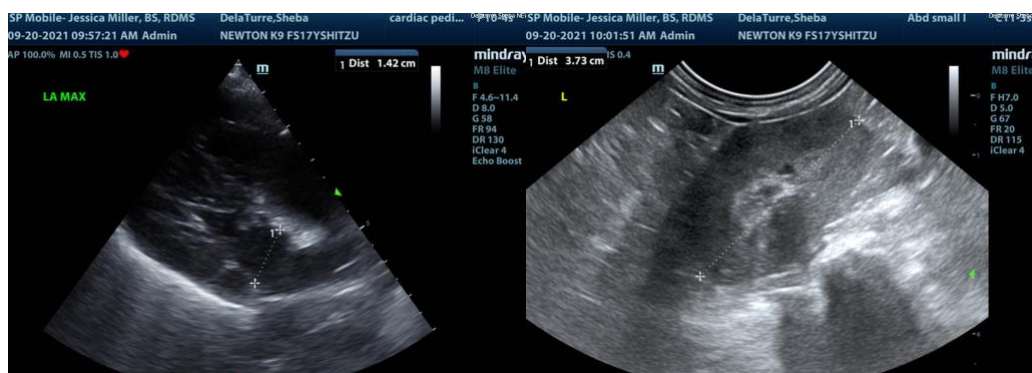
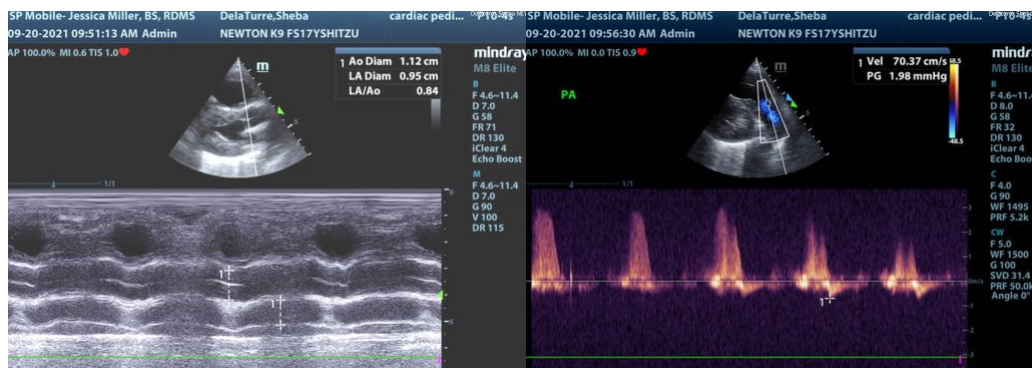
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The information and recommendations provided are based on the images presented by the referring veterinarian. No evaluation can be communicated regarding pathology that was not visible in the image/video clips provided.

Thank you for this referral. If the clinical or image interpretation does not parallel your findings or if I can be of any further assistance please contact me.

Eric Lindquist, DMV, DABVP, Cert. IVUSS, CEO of SonoPath.com
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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.

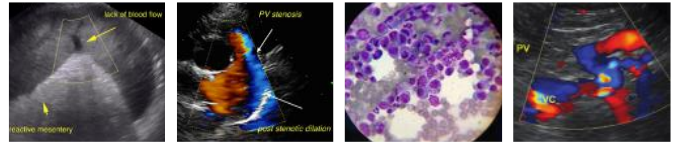
Primary cardiac causes of right heart enlargement include: tricuspid dysplasia/degeneration; pulmonic stenosis; pulmonic insufficiency; atrial or septal defects; patent ductus arteriosus; right auricular masses; and pericardial peritoneal diaphragmatic hernias. The second most common cause of right-sided 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.