

**PATIENT**

Snowman Castano

**SPECIES**

Feline

**BREED**

DSH

**SEX**

Neutered Male

**AGE**

15 Years

**WEIGHT**

3.65 kg

**INTERPRETED BY**Heike Rudolf, DVM, Dr.  
med. Vet., DipECVDF  
DVR**IMAGING  
PERFORMED BY**

DTLAvets

**HOSPITAL NAME**

DTLAvets

**REFERRING VET**

Dr. Endo

**INVOICE**

36026

**DATE**

2/28/26

**PRESENTING CLINICAL SIGNS**

History: Snowman was presented for evaluation of dysphagia and difficulty swallowing. O noted the signs about 1 month ago. The O reports that the episodes have increased in frequency from random/occasional to EOD. Episodes occur after the P drinks water, while sleeping or immediately after waking. P has a history of orofacial hyperesthesia following FME.

Abnormal PE/Chem/CBC/UA Results: Progressive stage III CKD (azotemia - SDMA 20, CREA 3.1, BUN 51; mild hypokalemia 3.2). Elevated cardiopet proBNP (Feline) 114.

**RADIOGRAPHIC STUDY OF THORAX AND NECK**

Neck: Naso-, laryngo- and oropharynx contain air, displacing the larynx to the caudal endplate of C2. The dorsal outline of the laryngopharynx is located further dorsal than the same outline of the trachea. The epiglottis is located ventral to the soft palate, increasing the air-filled space between itself and the laryngeal cartilages. Two small, round soft tissue structures are visible in the laryngopharynx.

All teeth are absent

Thorax: the body condition score is 6/9 with smooth, alternating layers of fat and soft tissue opacity.

Ventral spondylosis is present especially at T11/12.

The cranial mediastinum is of physiologic size and opacity. The trachea diverges from the thoracic vertebrae, and the carina is located level with T5.

The lung lobes are well aerated and extend to the thoracic boundaries. Pulmonary vessels are well outlined to the tertiary branches. The bronchial tree is thin walled and tapers towards the periphery.

The cardiac silhouette is tilted cranially and occupies 65% of the chest height and 2 intercostal spaces. Chamber or outflow tract enlargement is not obvious.

Air is present in the stomach.

**RADIOGRAPHIC DIAGNOSIS**

- Caudal displacement of the larynx

Incidental findings

- Spondylosis
- Missing teeth

**INTERPRETATION OF THE FINDINGS & FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS**

The anatomy of the feline and canine larynx differs so that e.g., the cuneiform processes of the arytenoid cartilage are inconspicuous and thus not visible radiographically. True and false vocal cords are present and during laryngoscopy the dorsal aspect of the false cords appears thick. This may be what is visible on the image of the lateral neck due to the caudal displacement of the larynx by air. In combination with the clinical signs of dyspnea in the upper conducting airways, an obstruction in the laryngeal region is likely. This may be due to laryngeal paralysis (an early sign of laryngeal paralysis is problems with the intake of liquids), inflammation, or masses. Laryngoscopy is recommended. This can be accompanied by inspection of the upper esophageal sphincter. Once laryngeal diseases have been ruled out, a Barium swallow under fluoroscopy is necessary to identify if the food transport from oropharynx to esophagus and motion of the upper esophageal sphincter are physiological.



## PATIENT

Snowman Castano

## SPECIES

Feline

## BREED

DSH

## SEX

Neutered Male

## AGE

15 Years

## WEIGHT

3.65 kg

## INTERPRETED BY

Heike Rudorf, DVM, Dr.  
med. Vet., DipECVDI  
DVR

## IMAGING PERFORMED BY

DTLAvets

## HOSPITAL NAME

DTLAvets

## REFERRING VET

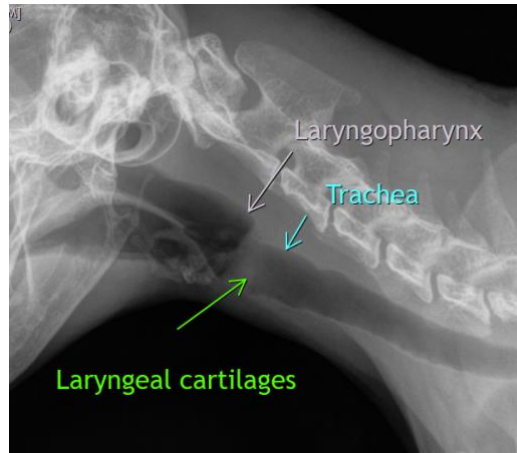
Dr. Endo

## INVOICE

36026

## DATE

2/28/26



**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.

**Heike Rudorf, DVM, Dr. med. vet., DipECVDI, DVR**  
[info@sonopath.com](mailto:info@sonopath.com)