



## PATIENT

Benji Vega

## SPECIES

Canine

## BREED

Shih Tzu

## SEX

Male

## AGE

7 Years

## WEIGHT

24 Pounds

## INTERPRETED BY

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

## IMAGING PERFORMED BY

Carmen

## HOSPITAL NAME

Animal Clinic of  
Queens

## REFERRING VET

Dr. Mucera

## INVOICE

35749

## DATE

2/6/26

## PRESENTING CLINICAL SIGNS

History: Pt is painful in his back, sensitive around TL junction.

## RADIOGRAPHIC STUDY OF THE THORAX AND ABDOMEN

The body condition score is 7/9 with smooth, alternating layers of fat and soft tissue opacity.

### Spine

Number and shape of the vertebrae are physiological; their surfaces are smooth. No evidence of osseous destruction or lysis is present along the spine.

The left facet joints L1-3 are incompletely outlined.

The caudal cervical disc spaces are not clearly visible; the lumbar disc spaces vary slightly in width, especially caudally. A mineral opacity is located in the disc space T8/9.

### Thorax

The cranial mediastinum is of physiological size and opacity. The trachea runs parallel to the thoracic vertebrae, and the carina is located level T5/6. A dorsal, soft tissue line dips into the cervical tracheal lumen.

The degree of pulmonary expansion is fair. A tubular fat opacity with a pointed cranial end is located to the right of the cardiac shadow and extends from rib 4 to the diaphragm on the VD views. On the lateral views this appears to be located in the cranio-ventral thorax/mediastinum and causes mild dorsal deviation of the ventral lung lobes. Pulmonary vessels are visible to the tertiary branches on the VD view.

The cardiac silhouette occupies 85% of the chest height and 3 intercostal spaces. Chamber or outflow tract enlargement is not obvious.

### Abdomen

The abdominal organs are surrounded by fat; diaphragm and abdominal wall are intact.

The liver is located just within the costal arch, and the caudo-ventral lobe is pointed.

The spleen appears physiological.

The stomach is moderately distended with air and food. Distribution and size of the small intestinal loops appear physiological. Colon and rectum contain some formed fecal matter and gas.

Both renal shadows have a physiological size, shape and opacity. The bladder is moderately full and the bladder neck is located cranial to the pubic brim.

Prostate: an egg shaped, soft tissue opacity is located between pubic brim and bladder neck.

The sublumbar region appears physiological.

## RADIOGRAPHIC DIAGNOSIS

- Possible in situ disc mineralization T8/9
- Possible tracheal collapse
- Reduced visibility facet joints L1-3 on L

## INTERPRETATION OF THE FINDINGS & FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS



## PATIENT

Benji Vega

## SPECIES

Canine

## BREED

Shih Tzu

## SEX

Male

## AGE

7 Years

## WEIGHT

24 Pounds

## INTERPRETED BY

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

## IMAGING PERFORMED BY

Carmen

## HOSPITAL NAME

Animal Clinic of  
Queens

## REFERRING VET

Dr. Mucera

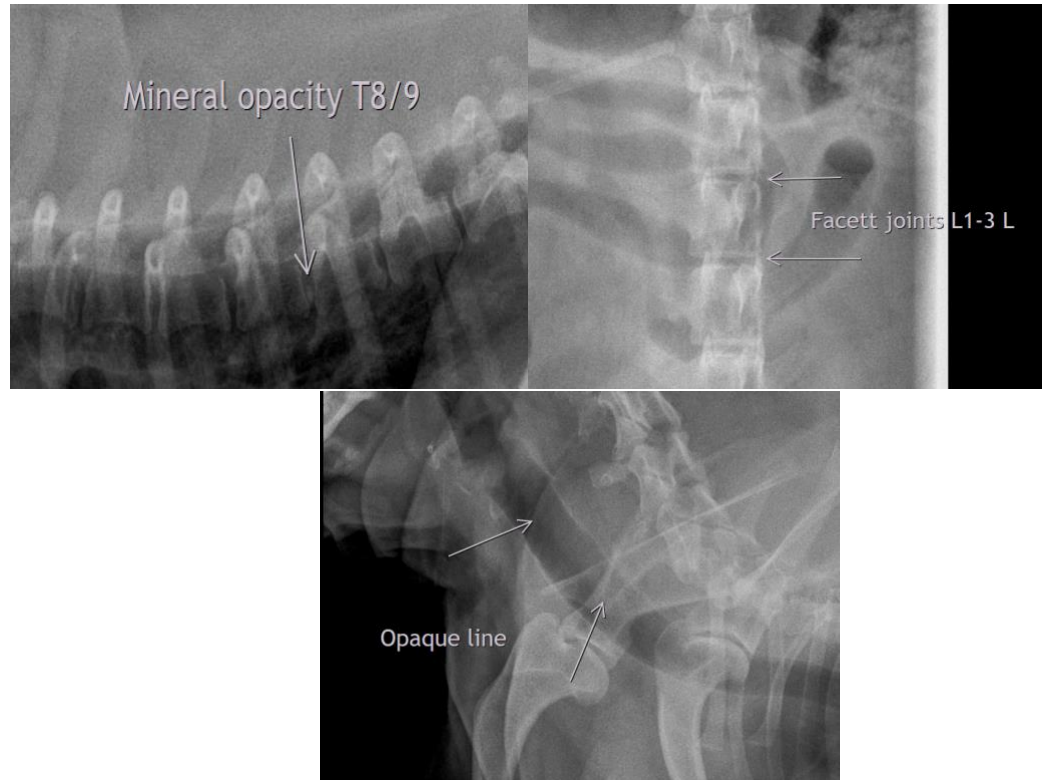
## INVOICE

35749

## DATE

2/6/26

Accurate positioning of the spine is difficult, even under G.A., and cord compression can only be identified with myelography or in cross-sectional imaging. In case neurological deficits and/or severe pain unresponsive to medical management, are present, CT or MRI will be necessary. The reduced visibility of some facet joints is likely due to mild rotation. Biochemistry is suggested to rule out pancreatitis which can also cause cranial abdominal pain.



**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)