



PATIENT

Lucielle Assaleh

SPECIES

Canine

BREED

Border Collie Mix

SEX

Spayed Female

AGE

10

WEIGHT

27

INTERPRETED BY

Kathleen Sennello DVM,
MS, Diplomate ACVIM
(Small Animal Internal
Medicine)

**IMAGING
PERFORMED BY**

Reser

HOSPITAL NAME

Harvest Hills VH

REFERRING VET

Dr. Reser

INVOICE

21508

DATE

3/8/23

PRESENTING CLINICAL SIGNS

History: Dog has had a slowly rising ALP, no other signs or problems

Abnormal PE/Chem/CBC/UA Results: ALKP = 233 on 12/07/19, ALKP = 310 on 12/19/20, ALKP = 357 on 12/08/21, ALKP = 952 on 12/14/22, Specific Gravity > 1040 on 2/14/23, all other chemistries normal. Dog has rounded abdomen on PE

ULTRASONOGRAPHIC EXAMINATION OF THE ABDOMEN

Urinary System

The urinary bladder is moderately distended with anechoic urine. The Bladder wall, trigone, ureteral papillae and visible urethra (to a depth of 2.0 cm) appear normal with no evidence of wall thickening, mucosal irregularities, masses or cystic calculi.

The left kidney has a normal shape and size (4.9 cm). Overall echogenicity is normal with adequate corticomedullary distinction and a typical 1:3 cortex:medulla ratio. There is no evidence of perinephric inflammation or effusion. There is no evidence of pyelectasia, nephroliths, infarcts or hydroureter. Renal vasculature is normal.

The right kidney has a normal shape and size 5.46 cm). Overall echogenicity is normal with adequate corticomedullary distinction and a typical 1:3 cortex:medulla ratio. There is no evidence of perinephric inflammation or effusion. There is no evidence of pyelectasia, nephroliths, infarcts or hydroureter. Renal vasculature is normal.

Adrenal Glands

The left adrenal gland is normal in size measuring 0.48 cm at the caudal pole. It is observed in its normal position cranial to the left renal artery. It is normal in appearance (uniformly hypoechoic) and shape with no evidence of a mass effect.

The region of the right adrenal (between right cranial kidney and vena cava) is unremarkable, but the adrenal is not distinctly visualized. No evidence of a mass effect.

Spleen

The spleen is subjectively normal in size, echotexture is homogenous, and the splenic capsule is smooth with no irregularities. The blood flow through the hilus and splenic parenchyma appears normal. No focal parenchymal abnormalities are visualized.

Liver

The liver is subjectively large in size, and echogenicity with smooth peripheral margins. The parenchyma is mildly heterogenous in echotexture with subtle, indistinct focal mottling. The visible portions of the vasculature and biliary tract appear normal. No focal nodules or cystic lesions are observed

The gall bladder lumen is moderately distended. The wall of the gall bladder is not thickened and has a smooth mucosal surface. Luminal contents are primarily anechoic. The cystic and common bile ducts are normal/not visible.

Gastrointestinal



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The stomach contains moderate fluid. It measures at a normal thickness of <0.7 cm with some variability due to the presence of rugal folds. The distinction of the gastric wall layers is adequate and there is no impression of reduced peristaltic activity. No masses or focal lesions were observed.

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The visualized areas of duodenum, jejunum and ileum have a relatively uniform diameter with minimal fluid distension. Wall thickness is normal. Bowel loops follow a curvilinear path with distinct wall layering maintaining the typical 1:3 muscularis:mucosa layer ratio. The duodenum measured as normal (between 0.3-0.5 cm in wall thickness) and the jejunum measured as normal (between 0.2-0.47 cm) Visualized peristalsis appears appropriate. There were no focal lesions consistent with obstruction or a mass effect observed.

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The ileocecal junction was visualized and exhibited normal intact wall layering and is subjectively of normal thickness. Sections of colon are visualized with formed fecal material and gas shadowing distally. There is no observed focal or generalized colon wall thickening or loss of layering.

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Pancreas

The pancreas is normal and isoechoic to surrounding mesentery. There is no evidence of nodules or cystic lesions. There is no evidence of regional mesenteric inflammation or fluid.

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Free Abdomen

Evaluation of the peritoneal cavity did not reveal any evidence of effusion, or subjective lymphadenomegaly. The Medial iliac nodes appear normal and there was no evidence of a caudal aortic thrombus at the bifurcation. The omentum is of normal uniform echogenicity.

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ULTRASONOGRAPHIC FINDINGS

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- Large mildly heterogenous liver- The diffuse hepatic changes are non-specific and could be consistent with vacuolar hepatopathy, nodular hyperplasia, inflammatory/immune-mediated disease, fibrosis, extramedullary hematopoiesis, toxic hepatopathy (e.g., copper), infiltrative neoplasia (less likely) or other hepatopathy.
- Moderate fluid distention of the stomach- Correlate with the feeding/drinking history. If the patient is adequately fasted, consider such differentials as delayed gastric emptying or a partial outflow tract obstruction (none observed).

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INTERPRETATION OF THE FINDINGS & FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

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No focal lesions are visualized associated with the liver and the changes that are observed are very mild. Unfortunately, only the left adrenal gland was clearly visualized but evaluation of the right adrenal gland did not reveal any large mass lesions, etc. These are my recommendations for further evaluation of a primary elevation in ALP.

REFERRING VET

Dr. Reser

- Induction phenomena are the most common cause for an elevation in ALP. These are systemic illnesses that 'turn on' the liver enzyme. Causes of this include Cushing's disease, dental disease, arthritis, and numerous others. In many cases the exact cause is unclear but as long as ultrasound and bile acids tests are normal most patients do not have progressive changes in their liver. While liver biopsy is not routinely performed, vacuolar hepatopathy, is noted on most biopsies. This is often non-progressive but in rare cases can be more severe and lead to liver failure.

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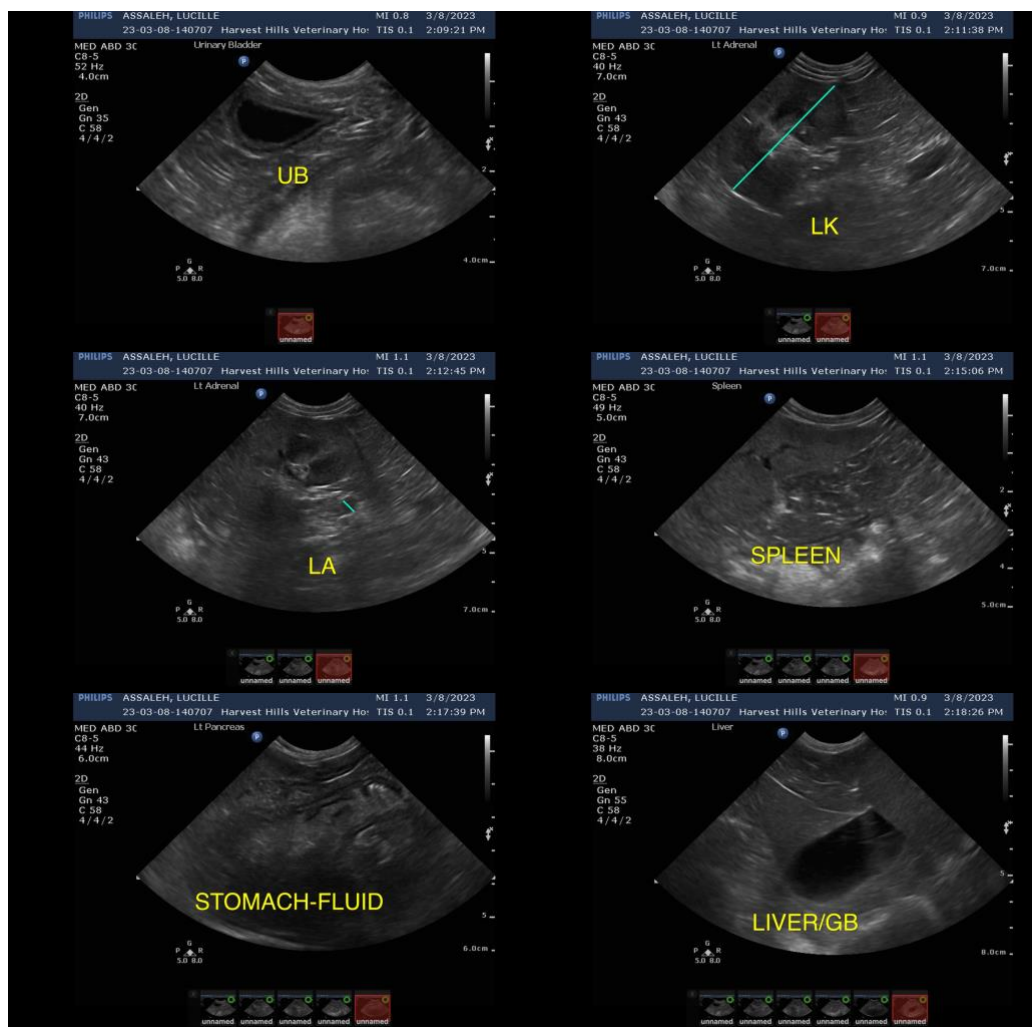
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- If signs of Cushings disease are present recommend endocrine function testing to evaluate for Cushings disease.
- Consider fine needle aspirate to rule out round cell neoplasia -if this is a concern.
- If a cause for the ALP elevation is not identified: I recommend recheck general blood work every 6 months, ultrasound once per year, and bile acids test every 1-2 years based on other results. If the ALP continues to climb a biopsy could be considered.
- Consider long term use of Denamarin, and monitoring for the signs of Cushings developing.
- A primary vacuolar hepatopathy can be breed related and is seen in Scottish Terriers, Schnauzers, Cocker spaniels etc.





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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.

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