



**PATIENT PRESENTING CLINICAL SIGNS**

Fennec Nucera History of acid reflux, air licking, new 2/6 murmur. Medication: Omeprazole, Carafate, Cerenia, Benadryl

**SPECIES**

Canine

**ULTRASONOGRAPHIC EXAMINATION OF THE HEART & ABDOMEN**

**BREED**

Chihuahua Mix

**SEX**

MN

**AGE**

2012

**WEIGHT**

8.2

CANINE	MR	TR	LA/AO	LA/AO	FS	EF	EPSS
<b>CARDIAC PARAMETERS</b>	<b>VMAX</b> (m/s)	<b>VMAX</b> (m/s)	(Boon method)	(Heart Base; Swe)	(%)	(%)	(cm)
<b>NORMAL PARAMETER</b>	4.5-5.5	<2.7	1.3	<1.3	28-40	40-100	<0.6
<b>PATIENT</b>	5.5			1.23	48	82	0.1
CANINE	HR	AV	PV	BODY WEIGHT	LA	LVIDd	LVIDs
<b>CARDIAC PARAMETERS</b>	(BPM)	<b>VMAX</b> (m/s)	<b>MAX</b> (m/s)	(kg)	2D short axis Base view (cm)	Avg; 2D and m-mode short axis (cm)	Avg; 2D and m-mode short axis (cm)
<b>NORMAL PARAMETER</b>	50-100	0.7-1.7	0.7-1.6				
<b>PATIENT</b>	130	1.4	0.86		2.0	2.0	

**INTERPRETED BY**

R. McKenzie Daniel,  
DVM, DABVP  
(Canine and Feline)

**IMAGING PERFORMED BY**

Rebekah Jakum, CVT  
ARDMS/RVT

**HOSPITAL NAME**

Pottstown Animal  
Wellness Services

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Dr. DiBuono

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**Cardiac Presentation**

The echocardiogram in this patient demonstrated normal **left atrial** size based on 3 different LA measurement methods. Chamber volumes and echogenicity were normal. The cranial and caudal **mitral** valve leaflets presented vegetative thickening consistent with endocardiosis. Doppler indicated mild eccentric insufficiency. The **left ventricle** presented 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 of the myocardium. The **left ventricular outflow** tract demonstrated normal laminar flow and subjective structural integrity. Normal LVOT velocity was noted. 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. 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). Normal RVOT velocity was noted. No visible **pericardial** or free pleura fluid was noted. No echographically detectable evidence of infiltrative disease was visible. The cranial **mediastinum and pericardial regions** were free of masses in the visible window.



**PATIENT** *Urinary System*

**Fennec Nucera** The urinary bladder, trigone, cystourethral junction, and visible pelvic urethra to a depth of 3.0 cm exhibited normal thickness and tone. Anechoic urine was present in the lumen with no uroliths or sediment. The ureteral papillae were normal. The ureters were not visible which is normal. No evidence of inflammatory or neoplastic changes was noted.

**SPECIES**

**Canine** The residual prostate was symmetrically normal in size with uniform parenchyma and slight coarse echotexture.

**BREED**

**Chihuahua Mix** The area of the aortic trifurcation was free of pathology.  
 Normal size and margination were present in the kidneys. A normal 1:3 cortex / medulla ratio was maintained. The medulla and cortices were uniform in texture with some increased echogenicity and minor loss of corticomedullary symmetry and definition expected for the age of the patient. No evidence of pelvic dilation was present. The left kidney measured 3.1 cm in length. The right kidney measured 3.4 cm in length.

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*Adrenal Glands*

The left adrenal gland was uniform in size and contour with a uniformly hypoechoic parenchyma. The left adrenal gland measured 1.1 cm length x 0.31 cm width at the caudal pole. The right adrenal gland was uniform in size and contour with a uniformly hypoechoic parenchyma. The right adrenal gland measured 1.3 cm length x 0.37 cm width at the caudal pole.

**WEIGHT**

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*Spleen*

The spleen exhibited a finely textured and homogenous parenchyma which was hyperechoic to the liver and renal cortical parenchyma. The capsule was smooth and regular without apparent expansion. The splenic vasculature at the hilus was normal in volume with no evidence of congestion or thrombosis. Acute to chronic inflammatory, neoplastic, or benign parenchyma changes were not noted.

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*Liver/ Gallbladder*

The liver was subjectively normal in size, structure, and contour. The liver parenchyma was mildly nonuniform and hypoechoic to the spleen with a moderate coarse echotexture and subjective mild to benign parenchymal remodeling. The hepatic and portal vasculature were normal in appearance without signs of congestion. The gallbladder was non-distended in size with thin walls and primarily anechoic luminal content. The cystic and common bile ducts were normal.

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*Gastrointestinal*

The stomach presented intact yet mildly prominent wall layering. The lumen of the stomach was empty with mild luminal gas. The ventral gastric body wall width measured 0.46 cm. The ventral pyloric wall width measured 0.54 cm.

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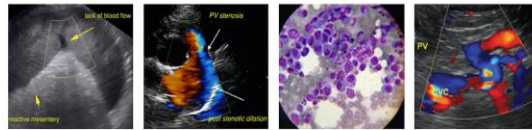
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The duodenum presented intact yet mildly prominent wall layering with subtle duodenal mucosal speckling. The duodenum wall measured 0.45 cm width. The jejunum and the ileum to the level of the colon were sonographically normal. The jejunum wall measured 0.34 cm width.

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Normal visible colon wall layers were present with apparent formed feces in lumen.



**PATIENT** *Pancreas*

Fennec Nucera The pancreas was normal in size and contour with isoechoic to heterogeneous parenchyma compared to adjacent omentum. No signs of active inflammation or neoplasia.

**SPECIES** *Free Abdomen*

Canine No overt lymphadenopathy or peritoneal effusion was present.

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Chihuahua Mix

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**ULTRASONOGRAPHIC FINDINGS**

- Chronic mitral valve disease (ACVIM B1)
- Mild gastroduodenitis pattern
- Heterogeneous pancreas - patient / age-related variant, minor remodeling owing to previous inflammatory episode, or low-grade to chronic pancreatitis possible
- Minor hepatic parenchymal remodeling - benign

**INTERPRETATION OF THE FINDINGS & FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS**

The cause of the murmur is chronic degenerative valvular changes with secondary eccentric mitral valve insufficiency. The lack of left atrial enlargement implies that the risk of complication secondary to mitral valve insufficiency is low at this time and, without current clinical signs, indicates that medical therapy is not required. No other additional clinical issues such as LV systolic dysfunction or evidence of clinical pulmonary hypertension were present. Conservative monitoring is recommended with a recheck echocardiogram in 6-12 months, sooner if clinical signs suggestive of heart disease develop.

Potential for low-grade to chronic pancreatitis may be suspected if evidence of cranial abdominal or subxiphoid discomfort on palpation. Correlation with a Spec cPL could be considered.

For potential GERD, continued Omeprazole at appropriate dose BID therapy to potentially improve lower esophageal sphincter tone i.e., Metoclopramide or Cisapride, as well as low-fat canned to wet diet such as Hills ID, or similar may prove beneficial. Potential upper gastrointestinal endoscopy may be considered if persistent clinical signs of reflux.





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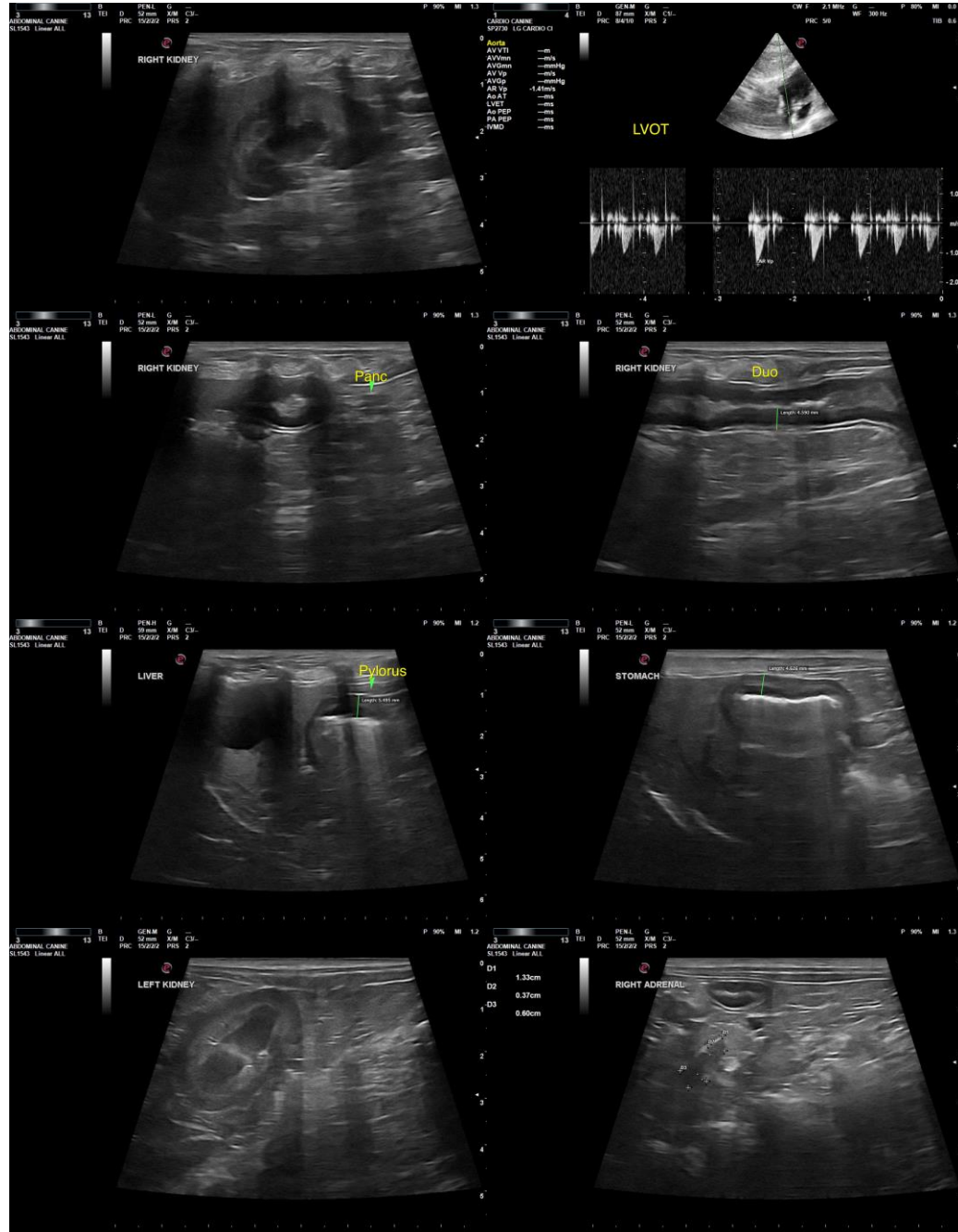
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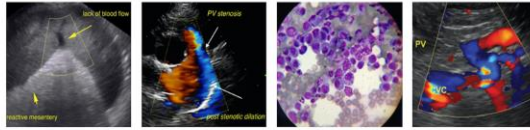
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The information and recommendations provided are based on the images presented by the referring veterinarian/sonographer. No evaluation can be communicated regarding pathology that was not visible in the image/video clips provided.

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.

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