
**PATIENT**

Stella Smeltzer

**SPECIES**

Canine

**BREED**

Chihuahua

**SEX**

FS

**AGE**

13yr

**WEIGHT**

10.4lb

**PRESENTING CLINICAL SIGNS**

Stella is a 13 year old spayed chihuahua that presented on 3/10/2026 for preventative panel. Panel showed mild elevation in amylase and significant elevation in lipase. Owner is very concerned regarding

pancreatitis due to Stella having an episode last year, which was treated at a different facility. Texas A&M

GI panel performed, with significant elevation in PLI detected. Owner notes that Stella has been acting normally at home, with her eating well and not showing signs of abdominal pain. Abdominal ultrasound recommended to assess for other possible causes of elevated PLI, such as neoplasia. Stella also has a history of heart murmur, but owner declines echocardiogram at this time.

**ULTRASONOGRAPHIC EXAMINATION OF THE ABDOMEN**
**Urinary System**

The urinary bladder, trigone, cystourethral junction, and visible pelvic urethra exhibited normal thickness and tone. Anechoic urine was present in the lumen with no evidence of urine or lumen sediment, mineral, or calculi. The ureteral papillae were normal. The ureters were not visible which is normal. No evidence of inflammatory or neoplastic changes was noted.

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 mild loss of corticomedullary symmetry and definition expected for the age of the patient. No evidence of pelvic dilation was present. Small medullary renoliths were present. The left kidney measured 3.6 cm in length. The right kidney measured 4.2 cm in length.

The area of the aortic trifurcation was free of pathology.

**INTERPRETED BY**

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

**Adrenal Glands**

The left adrenal gland was uniform in size and contour with a uniformly hypoechoic parenchyma. The left adrenal gland measured 0.56 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 6.4 cm width at the caudal pole.

**IMAGING PERFORMED BY**

 Loetitia Saint-  
 Jacques,  
 LVT

**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.

**HOSPITAL NAME**

 Fairgrounds Animal  
 Hospital

**Liver/Gallbladder**
**REFERRING VET**

Dr Rsihwain

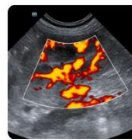
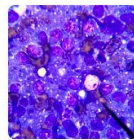
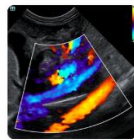
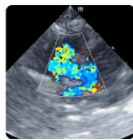
The liver presented mildly enlarged in size. The parenchyma of the liver was subjectively normal in echogenicity compared to the spleen and renal cortices. The liver parenchyma was uniform with a mildly coarse echotexture. The capsule of the liver was symmetrically rounded to mildly swollen in margination. A subtle hyperechoic intraparenchymal nodule was present measuring 1.1 cm in diameter. Normal vascular volume. The hepatic and portal vasculature were normal in appearance without signs of congestion. The gallbladder was non-distended in size with moderate congealed non-organized debris. The cystic and common bile ducts were normal.

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**Gastrointestinal**

The stomach presented intact wall layering with a normal wall layer ratio. The lumen of the stomach contained mild retained anechoic gastric fluid and chyme with no signs of ileus, obstruction or foreign material.

The small intestine presented intact wall layering with 1:3 muscularis/mucosa ratio. The lumen of the small intestine was empty with no signs of mechanical/metabolic ileus, obstruction or foreign material.

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

**Pancreas**

The pancreas was normal in size with mild capsule asymmetry and isoechoic to heterogeneous parenchyma compared to adjacent omentum. No signs of active inflammation or neoplasia. Periduodenal pancreatic cyst vs focally dilated pancreatic duct measuring a 0.6 cm in diameter.

**Free Abdomen**

No omental masses, overt lymphadenopathy or peritoneal effusion was present.

**ULTRASONOGRAPHIC FINDINGS**

**Primary**

- Remodeled pancreas with focal periduodenal pancreatic cyst vs non-obstructive dilated pancreatic duct
- Hepatomegaly with hyperechoic intraparenchymal nodule-subjective benign
- Normal gastrointestinal tract with mild retained gastric fluid/chyme
- Chronic renal changes with non-obstructive small medullary renoliths
- Urinary bladder calculi
- Non-organized gallbladder debris (non-mucocele)

**INTERPRETATION OF THE FINDINGS & FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS**

No evidence of a significant or active pancreatitis, although pancreatic remodeling owing to previous inflammation or chronic pancreatitis suspected. As needed gastrointestinal support and monitoring for evidence of persistent or progressive clinical signs suggestive of pancreatitis is recommended.

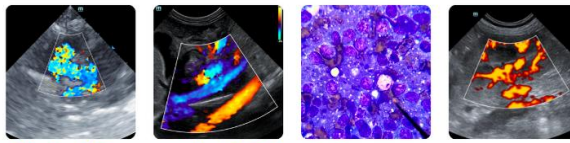
The liver nodules are suggestive of probable nodular hyperplasia or small lipogranuloma. Correlation with hepatic enzyme assessment and hepatosupportive medications, such as Denamarin and ursodiol if evidence of hepatopathy or cholestasis is suggested.

Correlation with UA is recommended.

Imaging performed by



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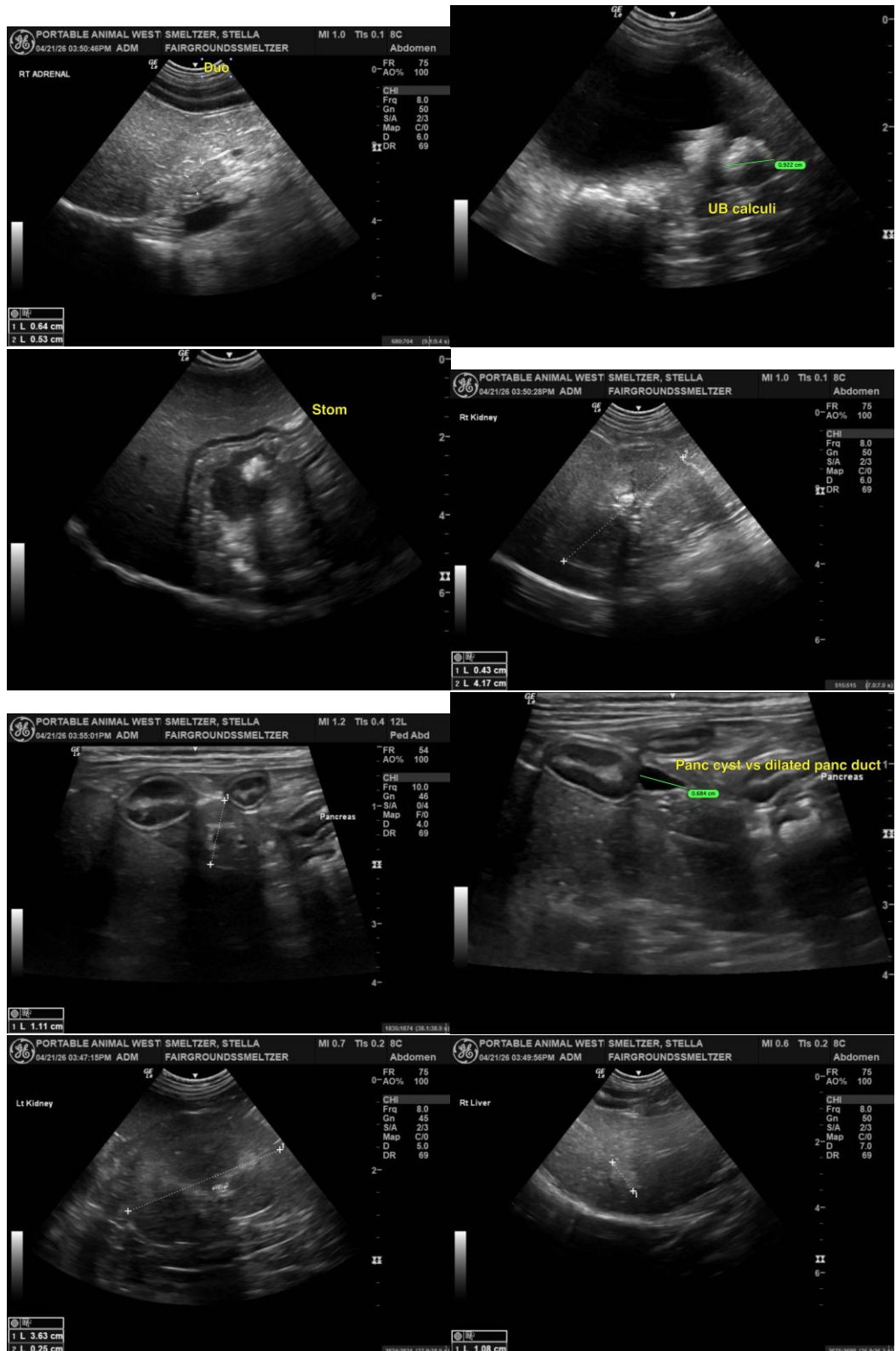
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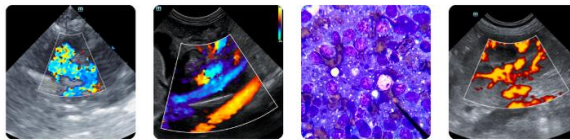
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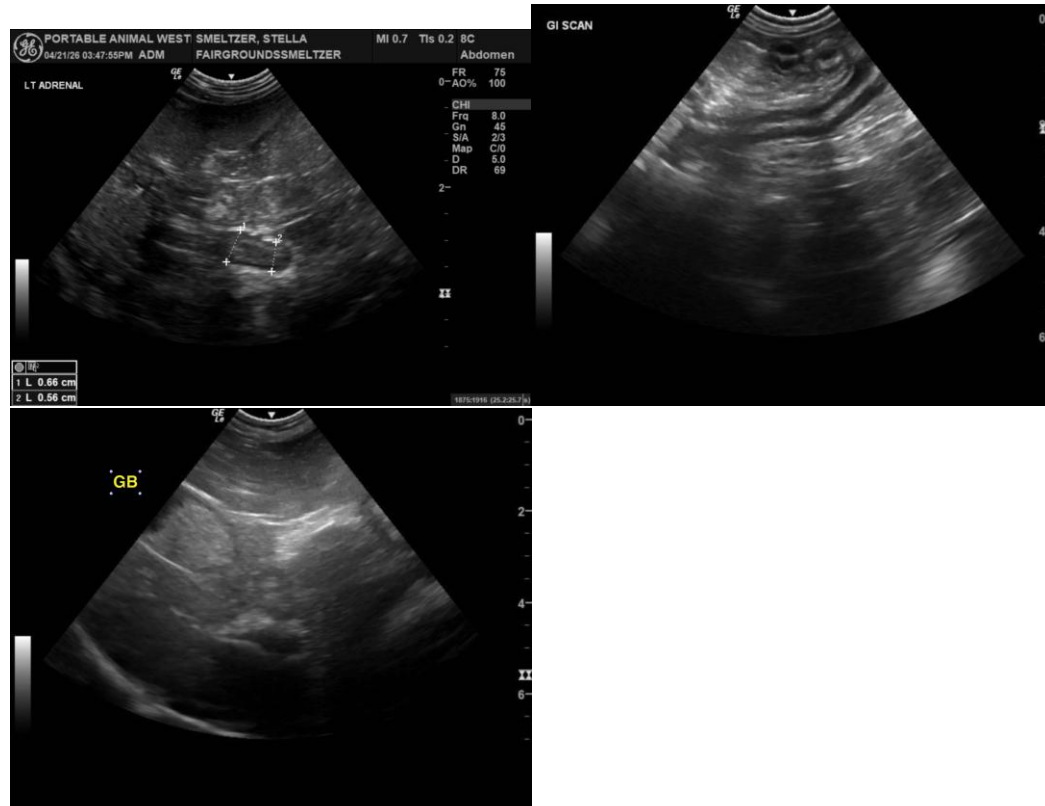
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The information and recommendations provided are based on the images presented by the referring veterinarian/sonographer. No evaluation can be communicated regarding pathology that was not visible in the image/video clips provided.

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.

R. McKenzie Daniel, DVM, DABVP (Canine/Feline Practice)  
[info@sonopath.com](mailto:info@sonopath.com)