

IT'S YOUR CASE

Species: Feline Breed: Domestic Shorthair (DSH) Sex: Male Neutered Age: 3.5 years

Clinical History:

He has a left pelvic limb lameness of 7.5 weeks duration. He presented with wound proximal and caudal to the tarsus; it was treated with metacam and cefovecin (convenia) injection. He continued to receive metacam until re-check 1 week ago. A lump is palpable on calcaneal tendon and he is still lame despite continued metacam. He has a plantigrade stance and possible contracture of muscles/tendon.

Details of study and technical comments:

Radiographs of the Stifle, Tarsus/foot, Pelvis/hips: ML and VD/CrCD/DP projections.

Diagnostic interpretation:

PELVIS AND STIFLES:

The pelvis and coxofemoral joints are unremarkable. The stifle joints are within normal variations.

TARSI:

There is a marked soft tissue thickening in the region of the left calcaneal tendon, showing a wavy/bulbous appearance caudally (yellow arrowheads). There is loss of distinction of the left calcaneal bursa. There is no evidence of bony fissure/fracture. The right tarsus is unremarkable.

A hyperflexed mediolateral projection of the left tarsus is provided. The tissue of the calcanean tendon does not alter in shape. There is no comparable view of the right tarsus.







Conclusions:

 Radiographic findings suggestive of calcanean (Achille's) tendon injury such as complete rupture and adjacent soft tissue swelling/bursitis.

Additional comments

The radiographic study is consistent with pathology of the calcanean tendon thickening; the degree of damage (contusion / tear / rupture) cannot be specified. The gold standard and least invasive diagnostic modality to confirm the suspicion and follow-up the patient during the healing process is a high-resolution musculoskeletal ultrasound.

Literature:

Lin, M., Glass, E. N., & Kent, M. (2020). Utility of MRI for Evaluation of a Common Calcaneal Tendon Rupture in a Dog: Case Report. *Frontiers in veterinary science*, 7.

Lamb, C. R., & Duvernois, A. (2005). Ultrasonographic anatomy of the normal canine calcaneal tendon. *Veterinary Radiology & Ultrasound*, *46*(4), 326-330.

Kramer, M., Gerwing, M., Michele, U., Schimke, E., & Kindler, S. (2001). Ultrasonographic examination of injuries to the Achilles tendon in dogs and cats. *Journal of Small Animal Practice*, *42*(11), 531-535.

