

Veterinary MRI and RT Center of New Jersey



VETERINARY
MRI + RADIOTHERAPY
CENTER OF NEW JERSEY

Thoracic CT is valuable for evaluating patients with pleural effusion.

Cross sectional imaging of the thorax can enable one to see airways in the lung essentially in three dimensions with little or no obstruction.

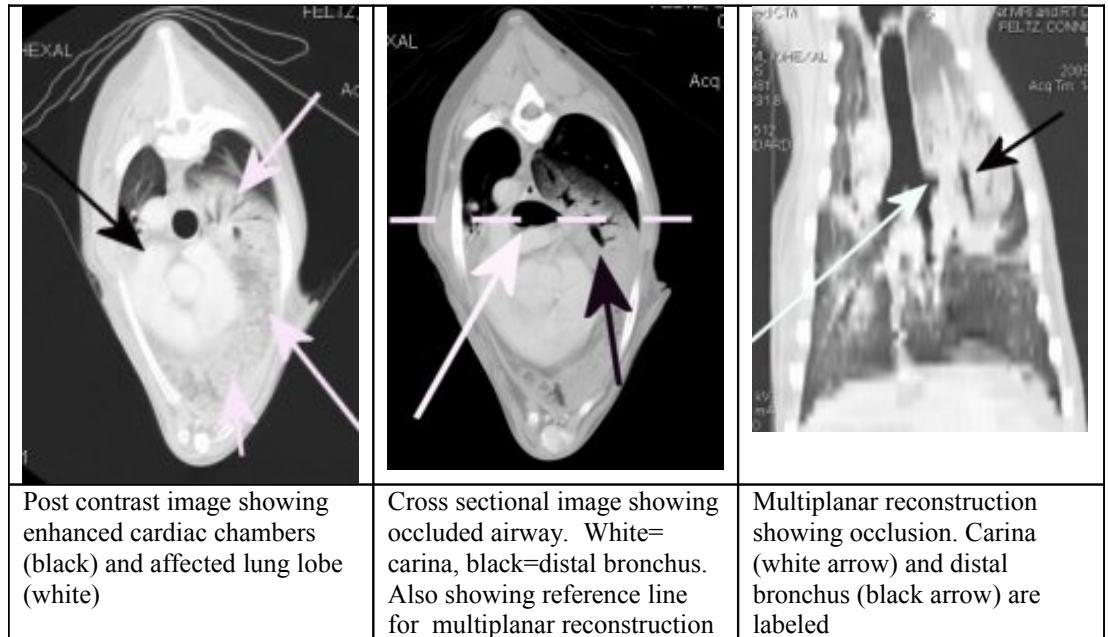
Our helical CT scanner allows a higher survivability of critical patients due to the greatly decreased scan time and therefore anesthesia time.

Case Report #3

CT Evaluation for Patients with Dyspnea and Pleural Effusion

Case Summary – Connemara, a 12 yr FS Irish Setter, presented for a one week duration of coughing, hacking and dyspnea. She has a past history of Cushing’s disease and arthritis. “Connemara” currently receives Anipryl and meloxicam. On presentation, the dog was tachycardic, dyspneic, and had a body condition score of 3/9. Two liters of pleural effusion were removed via thoracocentesis. Cytology was pending on this chylous effusion.

Imaging- A thoracic CT was performed. No complications were encountered and “Connemara” recovered uneventfully. Cross sectional imaging and multiplanar reconstructions of affected area are shown below.



Imaging Diagnosis- Right cranial lung lobe appeared enlarged and spongy with incomplete consolidation and poor enhancement after contrast administration. The main bronchus extending to the lung lobe appeared to abruptly end at area of suspected lung lobe torsion (~1cm from carina). This was most consistent with right cranial lung lobe torsion with secondary pleural effusion. Peritoneal effusion was also present. Also possible was a pre-existing pleura/peritoneal effusive disease with secondary lung lobe torsion.

Outcome- A lung lobectomy was performed to remove and confirm a torsed right cranial lung lobe. The lung appeared hepatized at surgery. The prognosis for lung lobe torsion treated with surgery is good.

Please do not hesitate to contact our facility to discuss the value of a CT or MRI study for a particular patient prior to requesting an imaging study.

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