

# Case 6

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College of Veterinary Medicine

# Signalment and History

- 1 ½ YO, male neutered, domestic shorthair cat
- Presented for vomiting and inappetance
  - Vomited 4-5 times over 12-18 hours
  - Not eating
  - Drinking minimal amounts according to owner
  - Indoor only cat with no other cats in household

# Physical Exam Findings

- Quiet, alert, and responsive
- T: 103.2° F PR: 180 beats/min RR: 24 breaths/min
- BCS: 4/9
- Estimated to be 5-7% dehydrated
- Vocalization on abdominal palpation

Abdominal radiographs are available.

- 1) Describe your radiological findings
- 2) List your diagnosis/differential diagnosis

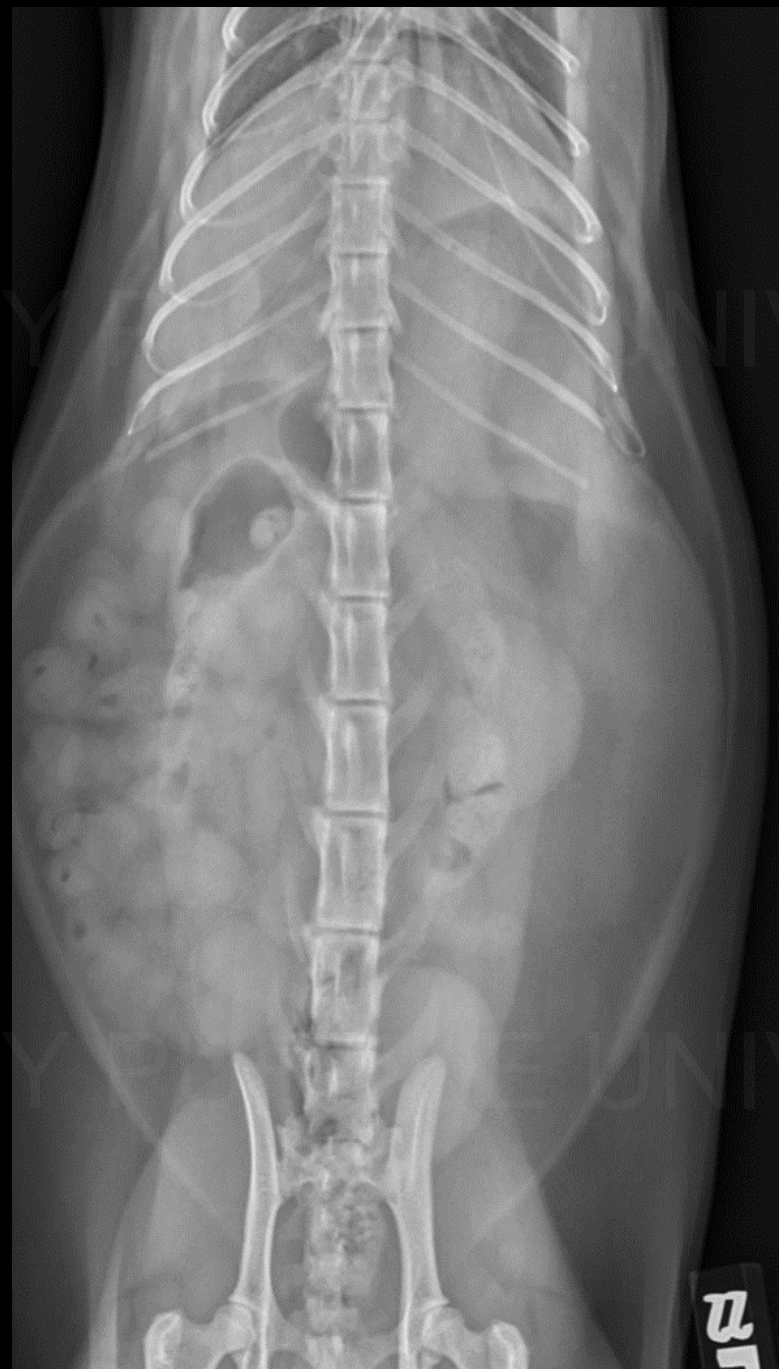


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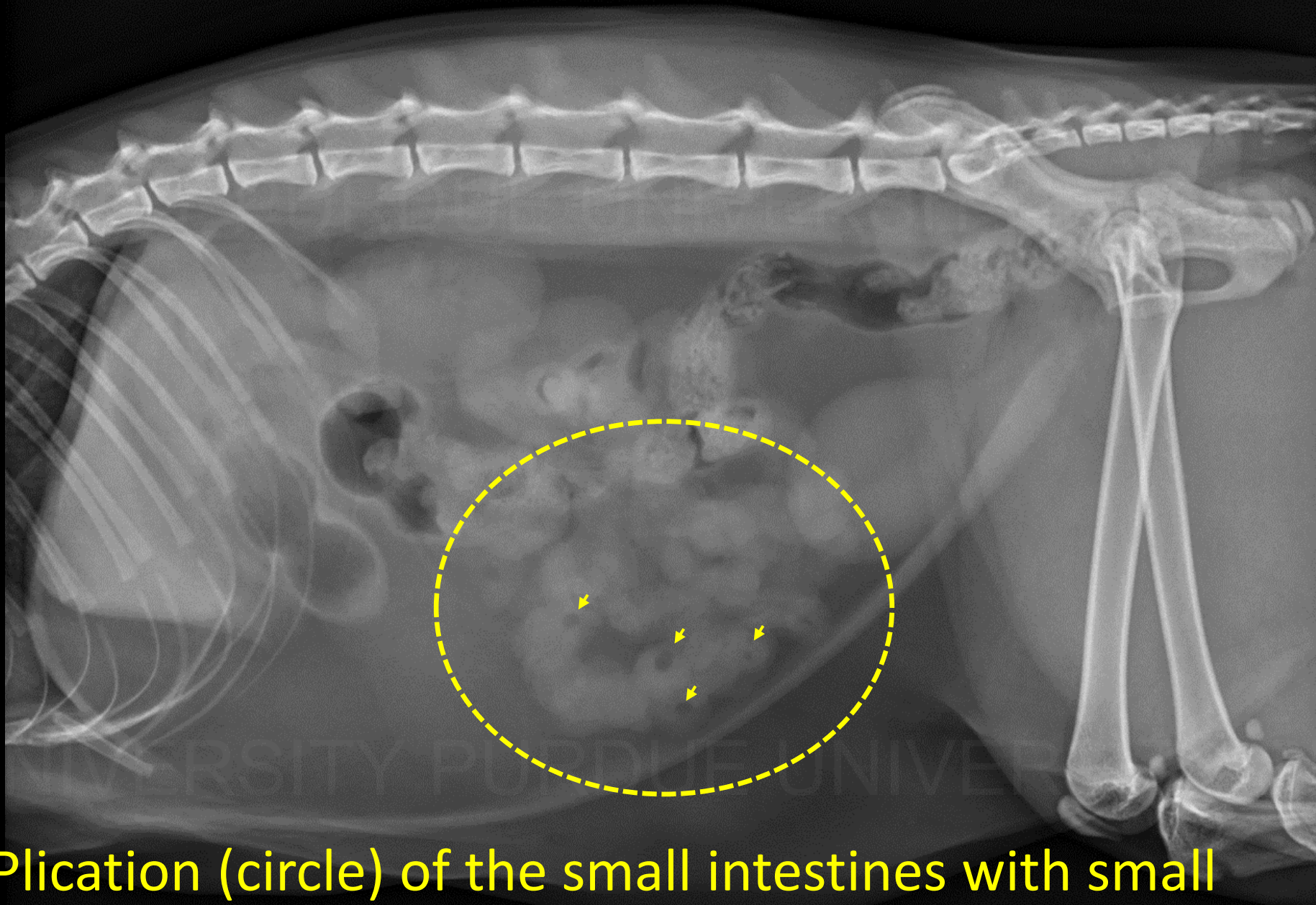


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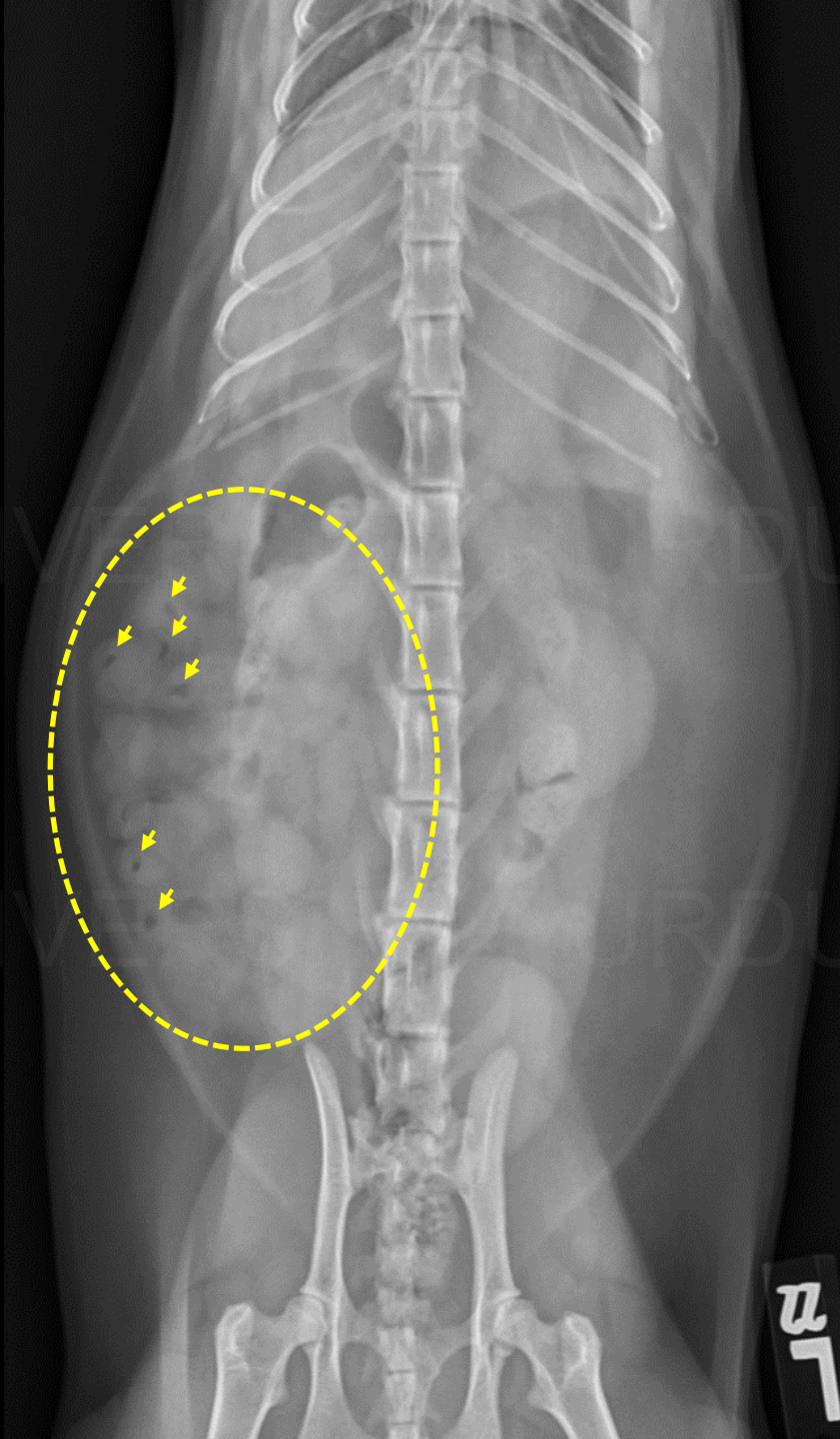
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# **Radiological Findings**



Plication (circle) of the small intestines with small oval to tear-drop shaped gas opacities (arrows)



Plication of small intestine (circle) with small oval to tear-drop shaped gas opacities (arrows)

# Final diagnosis

- Small intestinal linear foreign body obstruction

# Remarks

- Cats with linear foreign body obstruction may be presented with non specific clinical signs such as vomiting, depression, anorexia, abdominal pain, pyrexia, hypothermia, dehydration, palpable intestinal plication or presence of linear foreign body at the base of the tongue (that is why it is important to check the tongue base)
- Surgical intervention is indicated in most cases

# Remarks

Radiographic findings suggestive of linear foreign body (LFB):

- Bunching/plication of the intestines
- Eccentrically located intraluminal gas bubbles (comma-shaped gas pattern – 64%)
- When the maximum CD:VEL2 ratio was 2.0, probability of LFB was 50%; as the maximum CD:VEL2 ratio increased beyond 2.0, likelihood of LFB decreased.
- May also have concurrent peritonitis (dogs>cats) -  
eg: pneumoperitoneum or peritoneal effusion or both

## Abbreviations:

*CD –colon diameter*

*VEL2 – dorsoventral measurement of the cranial endplate of the second lumbar vertebra*

# References

- Root, C. R. & Lord, P. F. Linear radiolucent gastrointestinal foreign bodies in cats and dogs: Their radiographic appearance 1. *Veterinary Radiology*. 1971;12:45–52.
- Adams, W. M., Sisterman, L. A., Klauer, J. M., Kirby, B. M. & Lin, T. L. Association of intestinal disorders in cats with findings of abdominal radiography. *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* 2010;236:880–886.
- Basher, A. W. P. & Fowler, J. D. Conservative versus surgical management of gastrointestinal linear foreign bodies in thecCat. *Vet Surgery*. 1987;16:135–138.