

# CASE STUDY

## CT-SCANNING OF A LABRADOR WITH DISCOSPONDYLITIS, PERFORMED AT ØSTERGAARDS DYREHOSPITAL, TRANBJERG

### INTRODUCTION

Discospondylitis is an infection of the intervertebral disc(s) and adjacent intervertebral end plates. The typical early radiographic appearance is lysis of the end plate(s) and collapse of the intervertebral disc space. (1) Due to anatomical location, secondary or hematogenous spreading of the infectious organism is the most likely aetiology with *S. aureus* being a common causative agent (2) along with *Brucella canis*. (3) Long-term treatment with appropriate antibiotics is usually successful.



Fig. 1. Dorso-ventral radiograph of the caudal thoracic spine. Note the absence of distinct edges in the T10 – T11 area (arrow)

be made. (There was some collapse of the intervertebral space in T10-T11 on the DV view) see fig. 1 and 2. Subsequently, a CT scan was performed of the area. This scan clearly showed discospondylitis with end plate lysis of T10. See fig. 3. The patient was given 35 days of clindamycin (11 mg/kg) which resolved the clinical symptoms.

### CONCLUSION

This case clearly demonstrates that CT scanning is an superior diagnostic tool in patients with disease associated with the vertebral spine, especially when the survey radiograph does not reveal a definitive diagnosis.



Fig. 2. Lateral radiograph of the caudal thoracic spine.

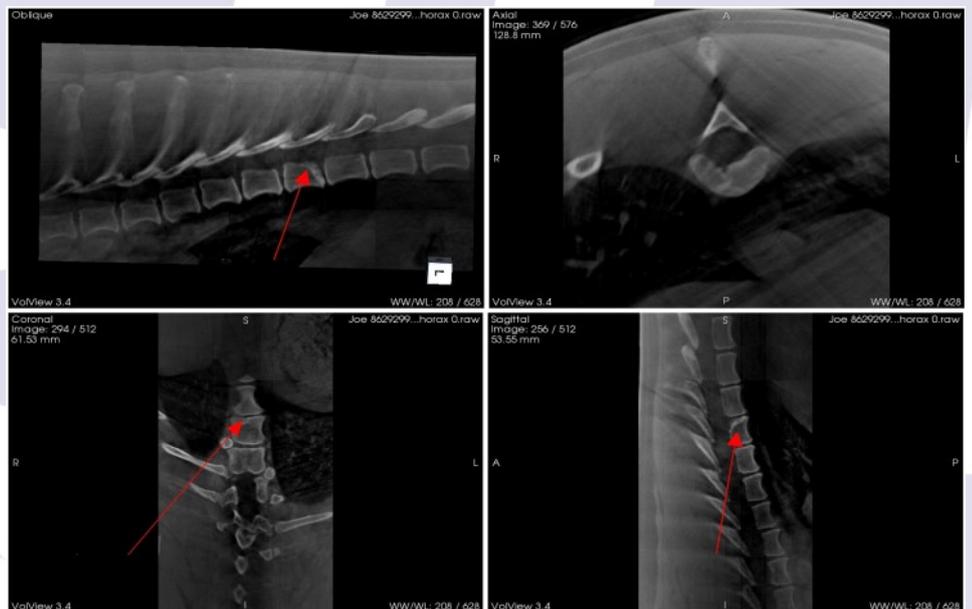


Fig 3. CT scan of the caudal thoracic spine. The arrows show areas with osteolysis indicative of spondylitis.

### CASE

This patient is a 2 year old male labrador with recurrent back pain in the caudal thoracic region. There were no neurological signs present, low-grade fever and no evident lameness. The symptoms were present approximately one month prior to admittance to the hospital. Upon examination, the patient exhibited marked pain upon palpation of the caudal thoracic region as the only prominent feature. Survey radiographs were taken, however, no definitive diagnosis could

#### Refs.

- 1)Hurov L, Troy G, Turnwald G: Discospondylitis in the dog: 27 cases. J Am Vet Med Assoc 1978; 173:275
- 2)Kornegay JN, Barber DL: Discospondylitis in dogs. J Am Vet Med Assoc 1980; 177: 337-341
- 3)Thomas WB: Discospondylitis and other vertebral infections. Vet Clin North Am Small Anim Pract 2000; Jan 30 (1): 169-82 (vii)

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