

What's Your Diagnosis?

Alphina Ho, Class of 2010

“Little Bear”, 20 month old male intact goose

History: Four day history of mass on the right neck that, according to owner, increased significantly in size within the past 2 days. Owner's nephew plays tug-of-war with goose. At presentation, all physical parameters within normal limits with the exception of a firm, 9cm long, ovoid mass at the base of the right neck.

Radiographs (3/17/10)



Radiographic Description: Standing right lateral and dorsoventral views of the cervical region. There is mild distortion of image likely due to movement. Soft tissue and cervical vertebrae are within acceptable limits. There is an 8cm long, 6cm wide, 4cm wide well-margined, thin-walled, ovoid air-opaque structure to the right of the cervical vertebrae, displacing the trachea ventrally. The structure is trabeculated, with a spider-web or honey-combed appearance. There is an irregularly-shaped gas-opaque area dorsal to the ovoid mass approximately 5cm long on the lateral projection.



Dilute iohexol was administered per os and the column of contrast deviates laterally around the border of the air-filled structure. An air-opaque area is evident in the intra-esophageal contrast column cranial to the air-opaque structure. The contrast column narrows at the mid-cervical region, but there is no stricture evident in the esophagus at the level of the air-opaque structure.

Impression: Air-filled structure on right lateral neck, possibly a displaced craniodorsal air sac.

Outcome & Follow-up: Air-filled structure was aspirated and collapsed with a butterfly catheter and syringe on 17 March 2010, with approximately 15cm of air removed. One and a half weeks later, the swelling returned at about 2/3 of its original size, and owner was returning to rDVM to once again remove the accumulated air.