



Small Animal Internal Medicine 2

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Chief Complaint

“Friend” is a 9 year old male neutered German Shepherd with a chief complaint of progressive ataxia which developed over the past 30 days.

Friend



History

- All vaccinations are up to date
- Weakness
- Ataxia has worsened over the last 30 days

Physical Examination

- Seems weak in his hind legs
- Temperature 38.0 degrees C
- Heart Rate 100 bpm
- Respiratory Rate 25 per minute
- Pelvic limb paresis
- Loss of proprioception: lacks placing reflex - hind legs
- Weak patellar reflex
- Lack of paraspinal hyperesthesia (lack of sensitivity to touch or pain along the spine)

Video of Friend - ataxia



Problem List

- Ataxia
- Pelvic limb paresis
- Loss of proprioception reflexes
- Loss of paraspinal hyperesthesia
- Weak patellar reflexes

Rule Outs

- List all the Possible Diagnoses
- *This list is your Rule Out list*

Rule Outs

- Type II intervertebral disk disease
- Intramedullary spinal cord neoplasia
- Lumbosacral stenosis
- Hip dysplasia
- Degenerative myelopathy

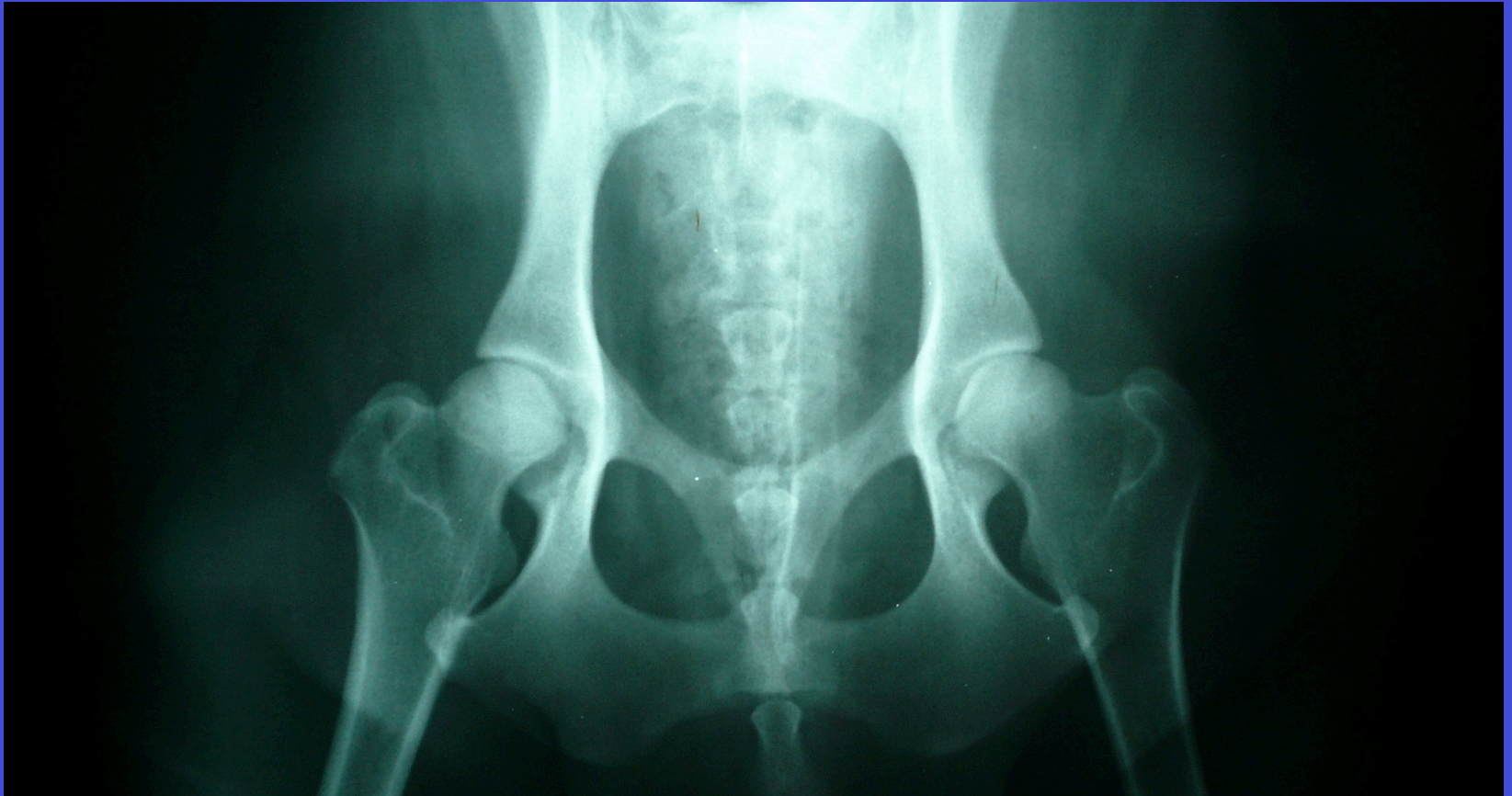
Plan

- CBC
- Blood chemistry
- Complete urinalysis
- Radiograph coxofemoral joints and spine
- CAT scan or MRI of the spine
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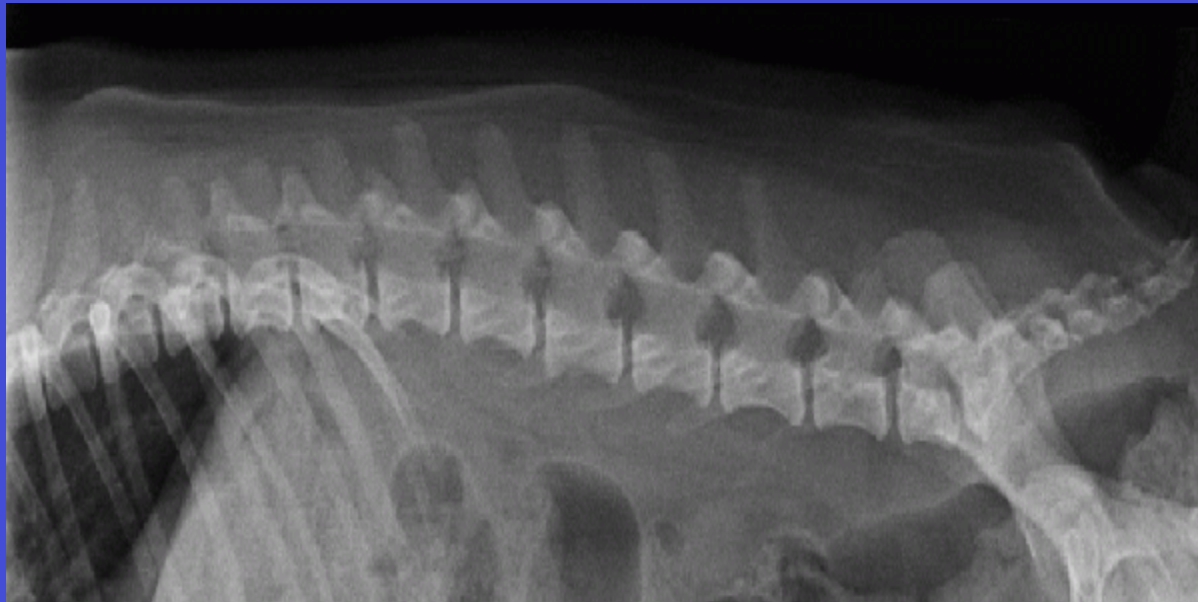
Findings

- CBC – normal
- Blood chemistry – normal
- Urinalysis – normal

Radiograph of CF Joints



Radiograph of the spine



Interpret the radiographs

- Interpret these these radiographs.
- List all the abnormal radiographic signs

Interpretation of radiographs

There are no abnormal findings in the radiographs of the hips and the spine

MRI results

- MRI results were all normal with no abnormal findings

What diseases can now be ruled out?

- *What diseases listed here can now be ruled out? Give reasons for your answers.*
- Type II intervertebral disk disease
- Intramedullary spinal cord neoplasia
- Lumbosacral stenosis
- Hip Dysplasia
- Degenerative Myelopathy

What diseases can now be ruled out?

- *We can rule out all the following diseases except Degenerative Myelopathy*
- **Type II intervertebral disk disease** – no evidence of narrowed disk spaces or spinal cord compression on the radiographs or MRI
- **Intramedullary spinal cord neoplasia** – no tumor found on the MRI
- **Lumbosacral stenosis** – MRI was normal
- **Hip Dysplasia** – radiographs do not show any evidence of hip dysplasia.
- **Degenerative Myelopathy**

What is the most likely diagnosis

- Degenerative Myelopathy
- Etiology: unknown .

Treatment Plan

- There is no known treatment

Prognosis

- Very poor

The End
