

Computed Tomographic Features Of The Caecal Content In Dogs

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Introduction

Variable amount of different attenuating content is commonly seen within the canine cecum and There is no known correlation between its presence and gastrointestinal (GI) signs. The aim of this study is to document the presence of cecal content and the cecal wall appearance and to correlate it with GI signs.

Methods

- The cecal content and wall were evaluated.
- The content was divided into **gas, fluid and soft tissue attenuating materials** and the percentage over the total volume of the caecum was estimated.
- The thickness of the wall was evaluated for symmetry and contrast enhancement, then its thickest portion was measured.
- Patients were divided into two groups: without GI signs (G1) and with GI signs (G2).

Results

Forty-seven dogs were included (G1=36 and G2=11). Variable volumes of gas, soft tissue and/or fluid attenuating materials occupying the cecum were present within both groups. No statistically significant differences were noted regarding the cecum content, symmetry and contrast enhancement pattern of the caecum wall between groups. **An increased frequency of soft tissue attenuating material was observed in G2.** Statistically significant differences were noted regarding the wall thickness between groups ($P=0.001$).

Conclusion

This study suggests that **cecal content, symmetry and enhancement pattern of the cecal wall are not reliable indicators in accordance with GI signs in dogs, although those with GI signs were observed to have a thicker cecal wall.**

