

More than just a pretty picture

Minnesota Urolith Center Case of the Month December, 2016



Figure 1

This lateral radiograph (figure 1) from an adult Labrador retriever reveals a radiopaque urocystolith with radiating spokes. This was an incidental finding during a workup for gastroenteritis. What is your prediction of the stone's mineral composition?

Its radiographic appearance is consistent with silica, which was confirmed by quantitative analysis. (figure 2). But this radiograph offers more than just a clue to the urolith composition. Silica is the most abundant mineral on the surface of the earth. The owner reports the dog does not eat soil. Take another look at the radiograph and decide for yourself. The radiopaque material in the colon is consistent with rocks or other high density mineral material.

Learn more about the radiographic prediction of stone type with our links below.

- [On our App is a CALCulator function to assist prediction of urolith composition.](#)
- View our [recommendations](#) to learn about dietary and pharmaceutical sources of silica that may contribute to silica stone formation along with a plan to prevent stone recurrence.



Figure 2

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