Diagnostic Forum

WHAT IS YOUR DIAGNOSIS

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History:

A 2 year old female cat was hit by car one year previously. The animal appeared in good health without any sigh of abnormality until recently. The cat was presented to the animal hospital suffering from difficulty breathing and resting in a dog sitting position. The abdomen was slightly enlarged. On abdominal palpation revealed the animal to be pregnant. Radiographs of the thorax and the abdomen were taken in the lateral and ventrodorsal positions. Give your diagnosis and turn to the next page.

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Radiographic Diagnosis:
Diaphragmatic hernia (gravid uterus was herniated)

Radiographic Findings and Comments:
The lateral and ventro-dorsal views of the thorax and abdomen revealed a gravid uterus with 2 foetal skeletons in the thoracic cavity and another two foetal skeletons in the abdominal cavity. The shadow of the heart and the lung can not be visualized in both the lateral and ventro-dorsal views due to the gravid uterus. There were gas-filled loops of small intestine in the thoracic cavity.

The cat may have had a ruptured diaphragm since hit by the car one year ago but had appearly normal since. The thoracic cavity was occupied by part of the gravid uterus and intestine which caused difficulty in breathing and the adoption or a dog sitting position.