

## Accepted Manuscript

### Diagnostic Challenge

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## ***Diagnostic Challenge***

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## **HISTORY**

A 2-year-old female spayed New Zealand white rabbit weighing 3.66 kg was presented to a Veterinary Teaching Hospital following a one day duration of anorexia and abdominal distention. Prior to the patient's current condition, the rabbit was eating, drinking, urinating, and defecating normally, however cecotrophs had not been observed in the rabbit's hutch for the preceding four days. The morning the animal was presented to the teaching hospital, the owner reported that the rabbit was lethargic and indifferent when offered food and treats. The owner also thought she may have heard the rabbit grinding its teeth. The rabbit had free access to a room maintained at 21°C and a hutch. The patient's diet consisted of mixed fresh greens, alfalfa cubes and pellets. The owner had obtained the rabbit three weeks prior to its presentation from a local animal shelter. The animal had been brought in to the animal shelter as a stray and subsequently had an ovariohysterectomy procedure performed at the shelter one month prior to adoption.

On intake, the rabbit's rectal temperature was 39.9°C, pulse 240 beats/minute, respiration rate of 70 breath/minute and a body condition score of 3/5. The rabbit was quiet, but alert and the external physical examination was normal aside from a moderately distended, tense caudal abdomen and decreased gut sounds. Following the physical examination the differential diagnoses included gastric and cecal dilation with or

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