



July 2014

Dr. Norman Ackerman served the University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine with distinction as Professor of Radiology from 1979 to 1994. A concerned teacher of veterinary students and residents of all disciplines, Dr. Ackerman also reached the veterinary scientific community through his writing. His numerous clinically pertinent publications are still today a vital part of the veterinary literature; therefore, it is appropriate this site perpetuates Dr. Ackerman's dedication to teaching. This site is presented in recognition of Dr. Norman Ackerman and his contributions to the field of veterinary diagnostic imaging.

Sponsorship of the display supports the Dr. Norman Ackerman Memorial Fund, dedicated to the teaching of diagnostic imaging residents at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine.

- Miss Kitty
- 4 year old FS Manx Cat

Dr. Norman Ackerman Memorial Radiography Case Challenge

radiography case challenge

Dr. Norman Ackerman Memorial

History and case presentation

- Miss Kitty presents to your clinic with a 1 day history of left pelvic limb lameness.
- On physical exam you localize pain to the stifle.
- You order crus radiographs

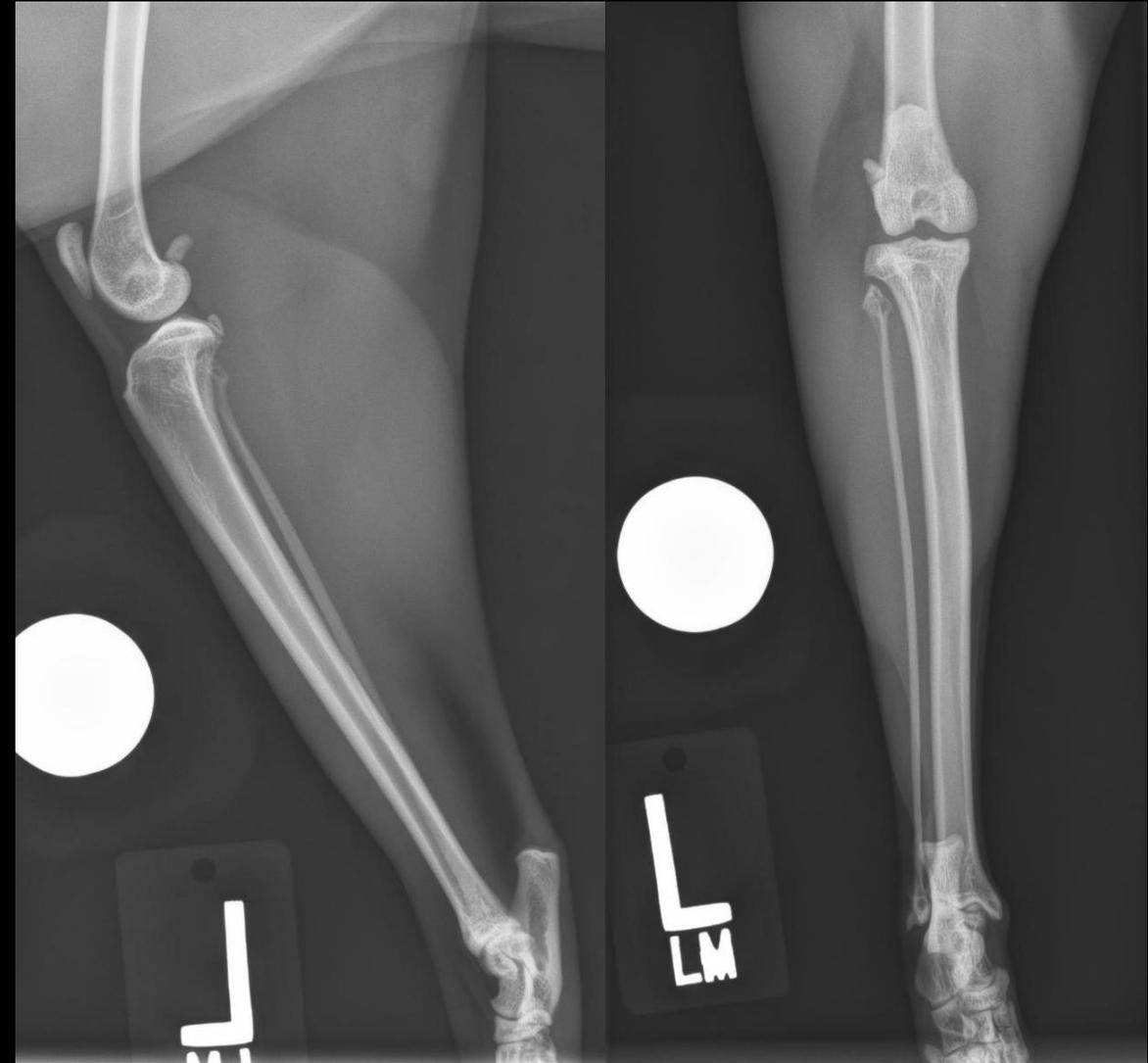


Enlarged view

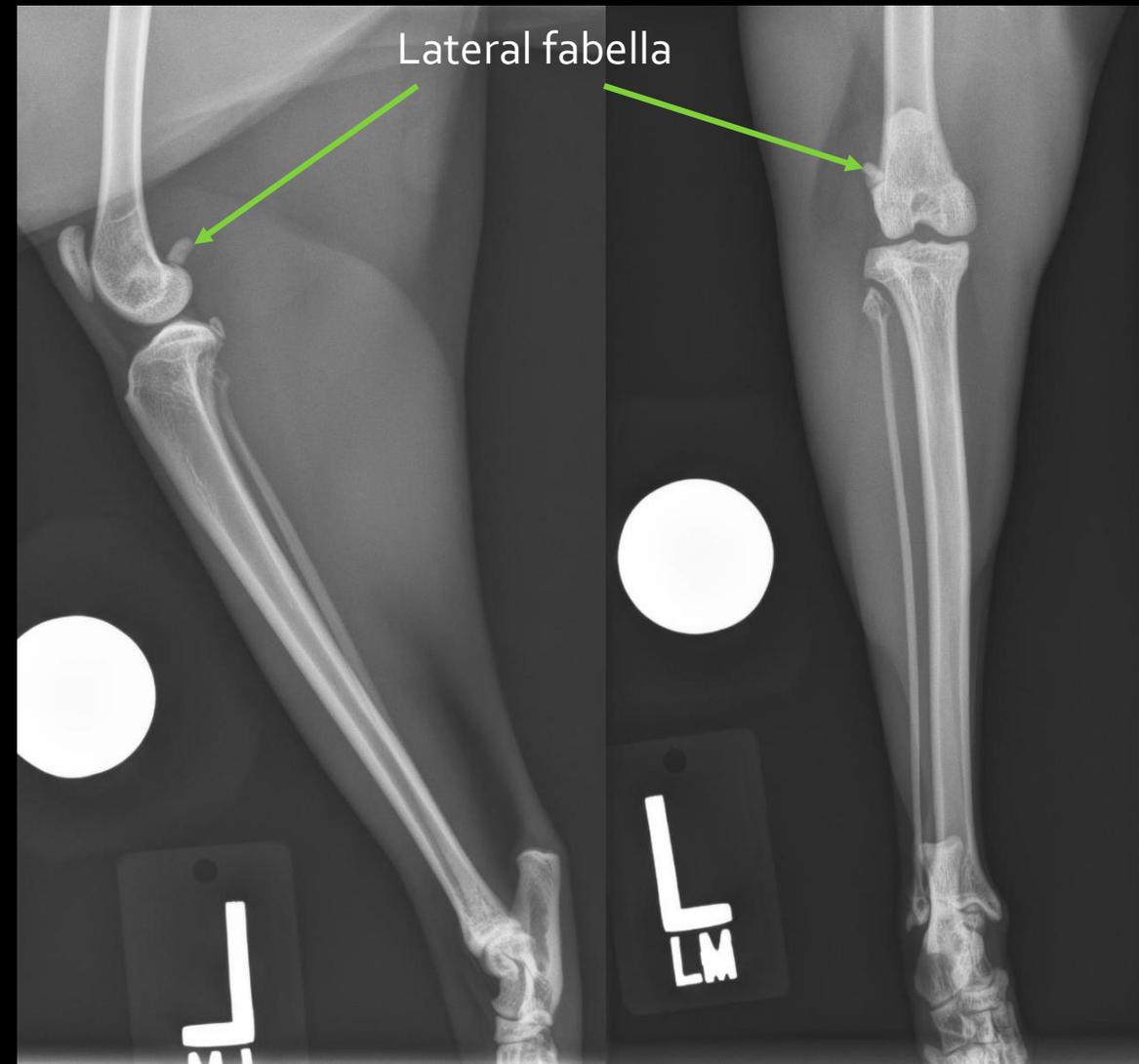


Enlarged view

Do you see any abnormalities or anything unusual on this radiograph?



The medial fabella (of the medial tendon of origin of the gastrocnemius muscle) is unable to be visualized on these radiographs.



Non-mineralized medial fabellae do not cause clinical signs of lameness in cats; it is a normal anatomical variant

Conclusion

You have found a normal anatomic variant (non-mineralized medial fabella) but no radiographic abnormalities

Sesamoid of the medial head of the Gastrocnemius

muscle: Arnbjerg (1993) *Fabellae and popliteal sesamoid bones in cats*. Journal of Small Animal Practice; 34(2) 95-98.

- There is a lateral fabella and a smaller medial fabella in the lateral and medial heads of the gastrocnemius muscle
- Radiolucent medial fabellae are a common and incidental finding on feline stifle radiographs. Histologically the fabellae are comprised of fibrocartilage rather than ossified bone.
- Non-mineralized medial fabellae are more common in domestic cats (i.e. domestic short, medium and long haired breeds) than in pedigree breeds.
- Non-mineralized medial fabellae are not clinically significant. However, non-mineralized fabellae are unable to be assessed radiographically for disease (such as trauma).