Vestibular Disease

Head tilt, and/or spontaneous nystagmus, and/or rolling/falling/leaning, and/or ataxia

**History**
- Signalment
- Indoor/outdoor (feline)
- Presenting signs
- Date of onset
- Progression
- Preventives used

- Medical and surgical history
- Toxin or pharmaceutical exposure
- Travel history
- Littermates affected

History of trauma, toxin exposure, similar illness in associated animals?

- Yes
- No

Investigate and treat as appropriate

Neurologic examination

- Abnormal?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Reconsider mentation

- Normal?

**Physical Examination**

- Ears/nose/throat: evidence of otitis externa, abnormal tympanum, nasal lesion, or discharge
- Eyes: fundic abnormalities, uveitis
- Cardiovascular: murmur, arrhythmia, heart rate, pulse quality
- Respiratory: crackles, wheezes
- Abdomen: pain, organomegaly
- Integumentary: lesions compatible with trauma/bite or penetrating wounds, especially over head
- Lymph nodes: lymphadenopathy
- Rectal: prostatic enlargement and/or pain, anal sac abnormalities
- Musculoskeletal: joint swelling/pain, lameness, or muscle atrophy

- Yes
- No

Investigate for CVD

Examination

- Consider age (geriatric)
- Ears/nose/throat: evidence of otitis externa, abnormal tympanum, pharyngeal mass
- Lymph nodes: lymphadenopathy
- Bulla palpation: pain?

- Yes
- No

Horner Syndrome?

Investigate for PVD
Systemic disease suggested?

Yes

Abnormal?

Normal?

Thyroid Profile
• Consider congenital based on age and breed
• Confirm no local or systemic toxic medications administered

Progresses?

If acute, consider idiopathic

Abnormal?

• MDB and thoracic radiographs for anesthesia if >6 years of age
• Skull radiographs, CT, MRI of middle/inner ear
• ± Myringotomy
• ± Hearing testing

Normal?

• MDB for anesthesia
• Thoracic radiographs if >6 years of age for anesthesia
• Systemic BP assessment
• Advanced imaging (CT, MRI)
• CSF analysis
• ± Infectious disease titers
• ± Storage disease testing

Abnormal?

• MDB and thoracic radiographs for anesthesia if >6 years of age
• Abnormal

No

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• CSF analysis
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• ± Storage disease testing

Abnormal?

• CBC, serum biochemistry, UA
• Thoracic 3-view radiography
• Abdominal imaging: radiographs ± ultrasound
• Lymph node aspiration
• ECG ± echocardiography if cardiac abnormality
• Infectious disease ± blood cultures
• Bone marrow aspiration/biopsy if CBC suggests abnormal bone marrow function

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BP = blood pressure, CVD = central vestibular disease, MDB = minimum database, PVD = peripheral vestibular disease, UA = urinalysis