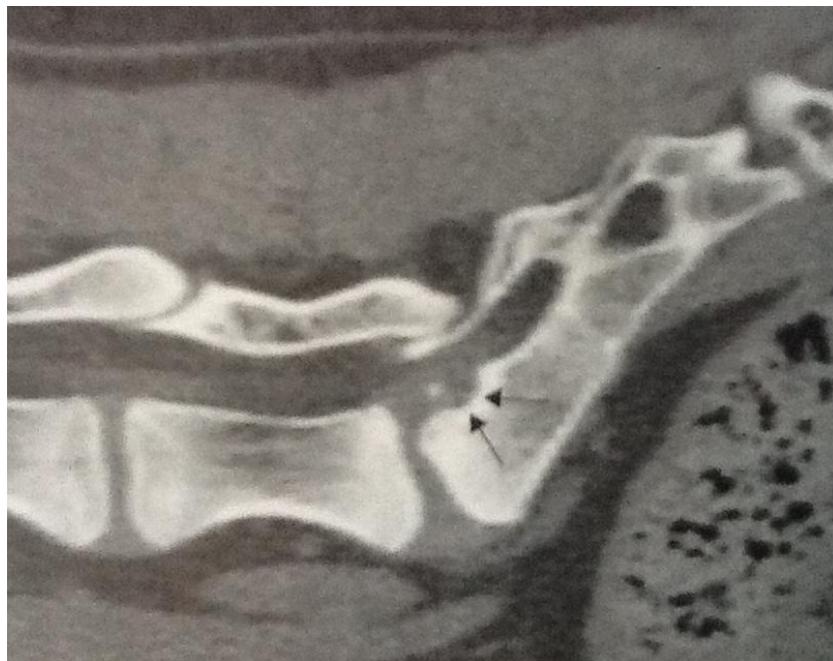


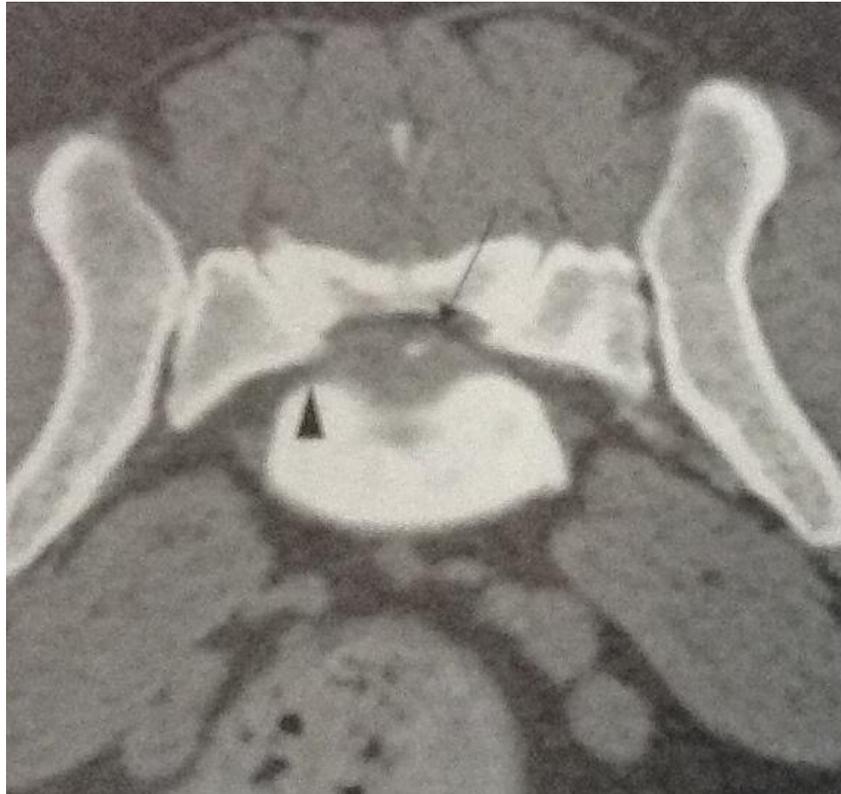
**Osteochondritis Dissecans of the Sacrum:** Osteochondrosis of the cranial endplate of the sacrum has been mainly described in the German Shepherd dog. Since the fibers of the fibrous annulus of the lumbosacral disk attach on the endplate in the region of the osteochondritic fragment, the disease usually leads to disk herniation and cauda equina compression at a young age. I personally found a disk rupture and a large bony OCD fragment in a young German Shepherd at Sx. At that time the diagnosis of degenerative lumbosacral stenosis was made based on the clinical signs and a myelogram prior to our having a CT. At Sx I did not recognize it was an OCD lesion until I got the histopathology report on the osteochondral fragment. The youngest GS I have seen this lesion in was 18 months old who also had bilateral Grade 4 CHD and had significant bilateral CP deficits.



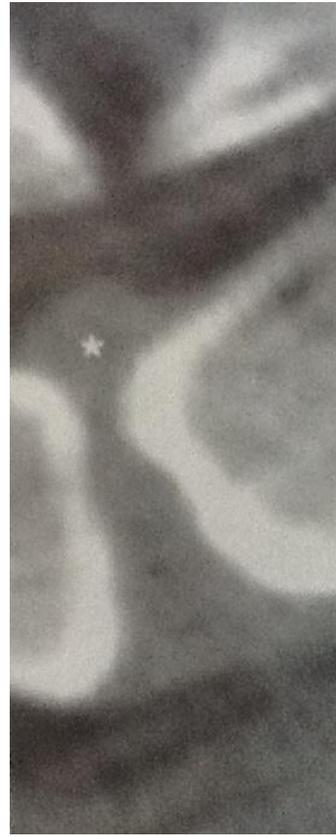
Transverse CT image shows a separated bone fragment (arrow) at the dorsal aspect of the first sacral vertebral body on the left.



Dorsally reconstructed CT image shows a separated bone fragment at the craniodorsal aspect of the first sacral vertebrae above the bone defect (arrows).



Adult dog with degenerative lumbosacral stenosis compression of the cauda equina and right foraminal stenosis (foraminal stenosis was not recognized in this disease until we had CT scan capability, thus the reason for incomplete recovery post-op in some cases in the past). Transverse CT image shows the intervertebral disk protruding dorsally, leaving only a thin sliver of epidural fat in the vertebral canal (arrowhead). The herniated material contains focal mineralization seen as a hyperdense dot. The disk protrusion is more severe on the right side, where the intervertebral foramen is partially occluded (arrow). The nerve roots of the cauda equina are not visible separate from the herniated disk material (compressed).



Sagittally reconstructed CT image of the lumbosacral spine of dog with a mild dynamic cauda equina compression. In the image on the LEFT the lumbosacral junction is in flexion, the intervertebral disk ( asterisk ) is flattened and the cauda equina is not compressed. In the image on the RIGHT the patient is positioned with the lumbosacral junction extended, the intervertebral disk ( asterisk ) protrudes much further dorsally, narrowing the vertebral canal and attenuating the epidural fat around the cauda equina.

\* Source Veterinary Computed Tomography (Wiley-Blackwell)