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# Bow-ow! Dogs swallow pins, pens

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So that's what happened to the socks.

A Chelsea veterinarian has compiled a Top 10 list of items pets swallow the most. And yes, socks are No. 1.

They were followed by underwear, panty hose - and rocks.

## PHOTOS: THE DOG ATE IT: SEE CRAZY CANINE X-RAYS

"It tends to be things that smell like the owners," said Dr. Jennifer Mlekoday at the West Chelsea Veterinary on W. 26th St. "They start playing with them and then they wind up swallowing them."

In addition to solving a riddle that has perplexed mankind for as long as mankind has worn socks, Mlekoday has also given new legs to the "dog ate my homework" excuse - although she has not removed any from an ailing pooch.

"They will eat paper products if they find them in the garbage and they have food drippings on them," she said.

## PHOTOS: WHO'S THE CUTEST IN THE ANIMAL KINGDOM?

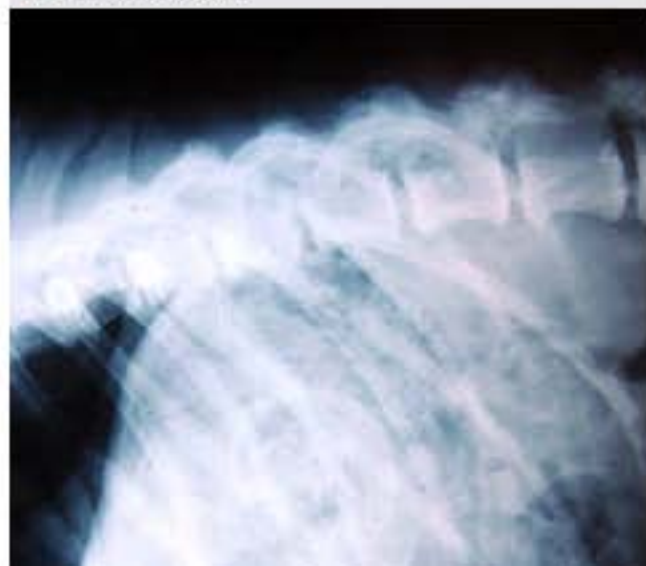
Chew toys were sixth on the list. "I once removed a rubber duck from a dog," the vet said.



Smith for News

Jennifer Mlekoday, D.V.M. at West Chelsea Veterinary, looks over an x-ray of a dog who swallowed a rubber duck.

Photo Gallery



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### Top 10 items pets most commonly swallow:

1. Socks
2. Underwear
3. Pantyhose
4. Rocks
5. Balls
6. Chew toys
7. Corn cobs
8. Bones
9. Hair ties
10. Sticks

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X-rays have also turned up truly scary items like needles and razor blades, the kind of hazards city critters encounter daily on the streets.

"They'll also go after discarded wrappers, popsicle sticks and even half-eaten fried chicken meals," she said. "It just goes to show that pet owners need to pay attention to what your dog is exposed to."

One of the biggest hazards to pooches is something that can be bought at any pet store - rawhide and marrow bones.

Mlekoday said that if not digested properly, they can obstruct or cause damage to the intestinal tract.

"While some objects can pass naturally, others have a tendency to become compacted or lodged in pets' gastrointestinal tracts, resulting in pain, vomiting or internal injury," she said. "In those cases, surgery may be necessary."



The faint shape of a rubber duck is seen in the dog's x-ray. Click above to see more crazy x-rays!

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## The dog ate it: Crazy canine X-rays

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Socks are the most-swallowed item by pets, says Dr. Jennifer Mlekoday of West Chelsea Veterinary. ([Click here for the full top 10 list.](#)) But they're not the only crazy objects Fido can gulp down. Check out these real X-rays of dogs who went sniffing for tummy trouble.

Credits: Smith for News

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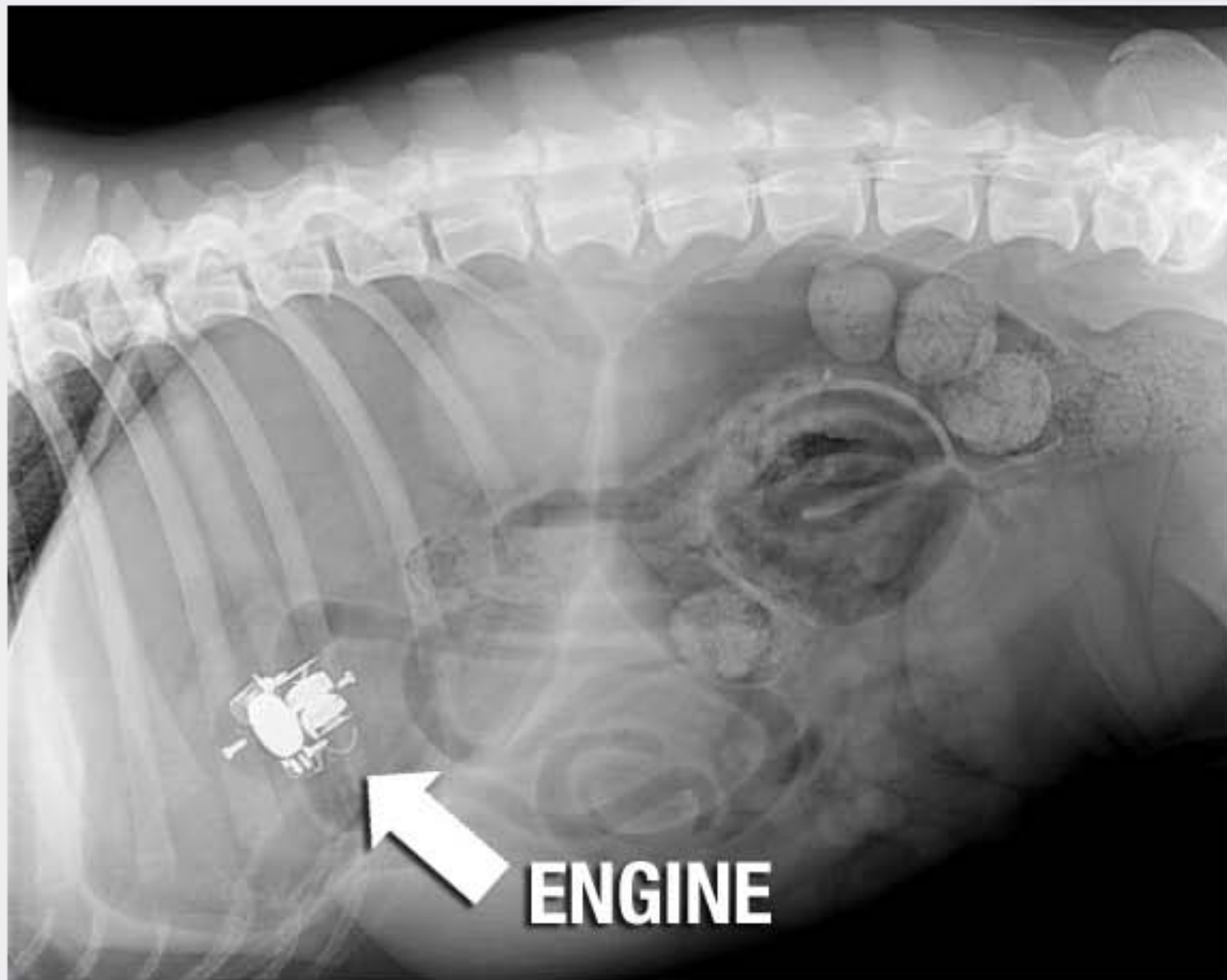
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Vroom! Vroom! Take this doggy for a ride ... to the vet! It swallowed a toy engine.

Credits: NYC Veterinary Specialists

Published: 10/30/2008 09:19:32

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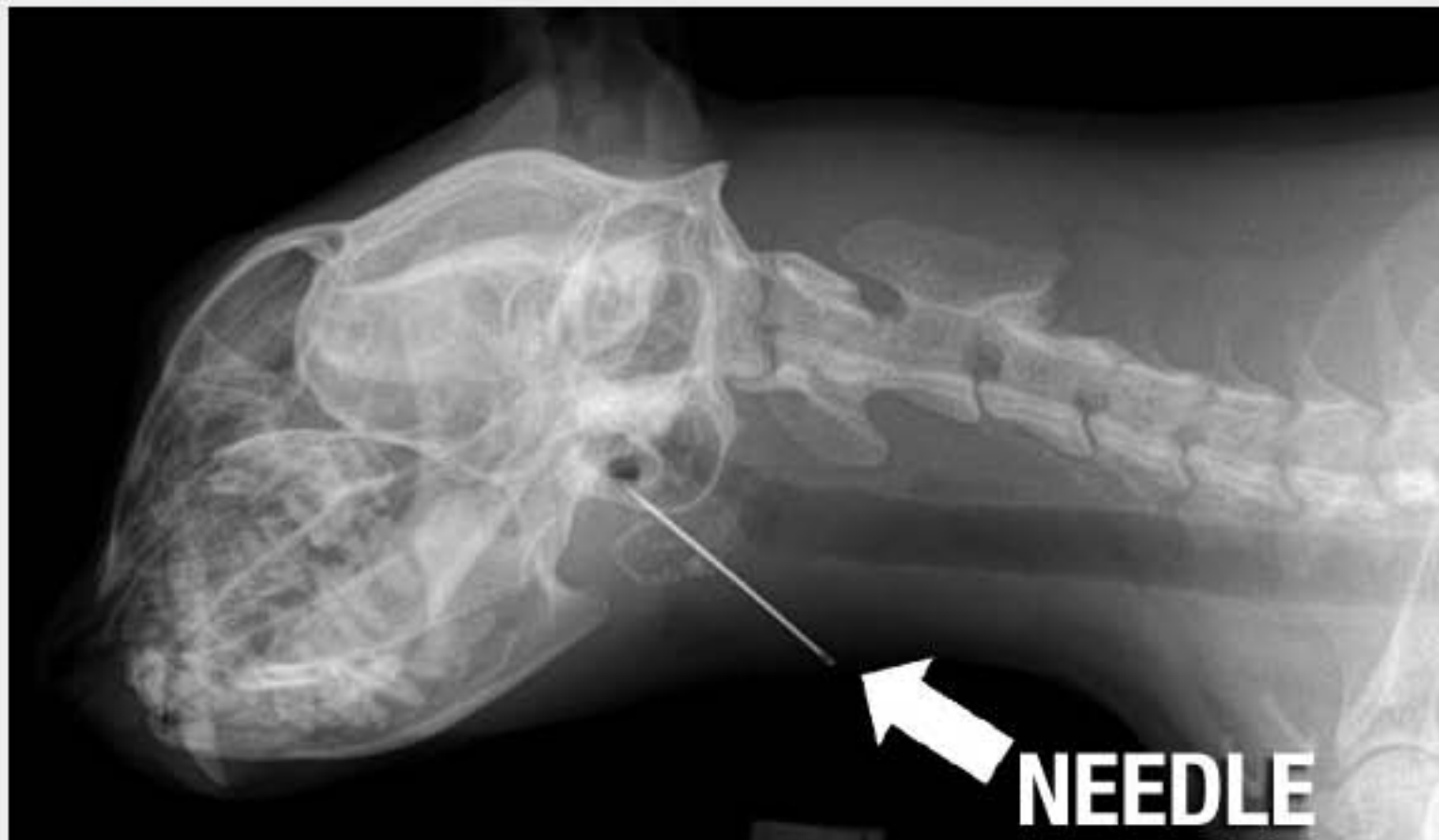
## Who Has the Whitest Teeth?



## The dog ate it: Crazy canine X-rays

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Ouch! This dog had to be sewed up after doctors removed a needle from its throat.

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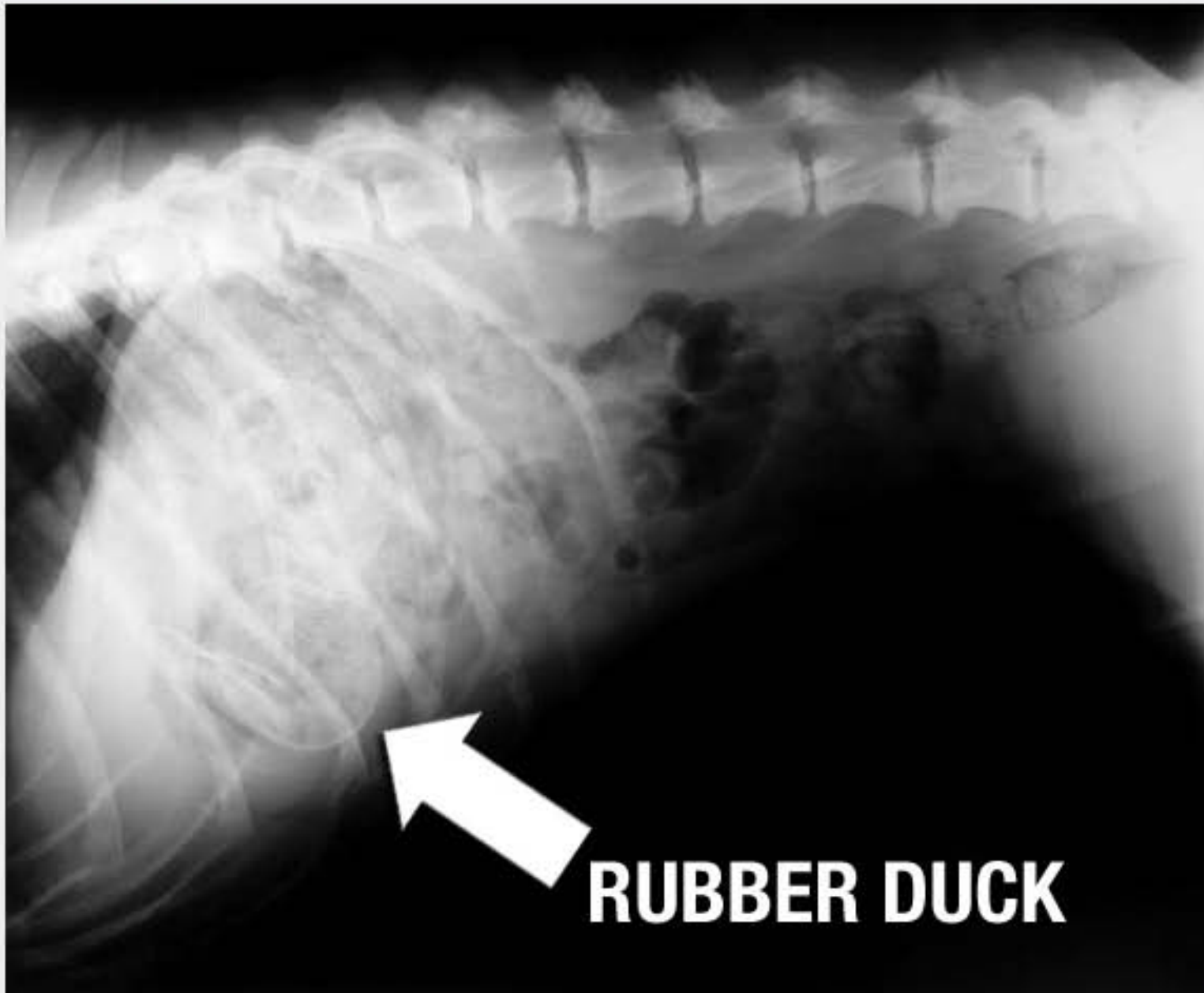


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Rubber ducky, is that you? One dog couldn't resist gulping down his favorite squeaky toy.

Credits: NYC Veterinary Specialists

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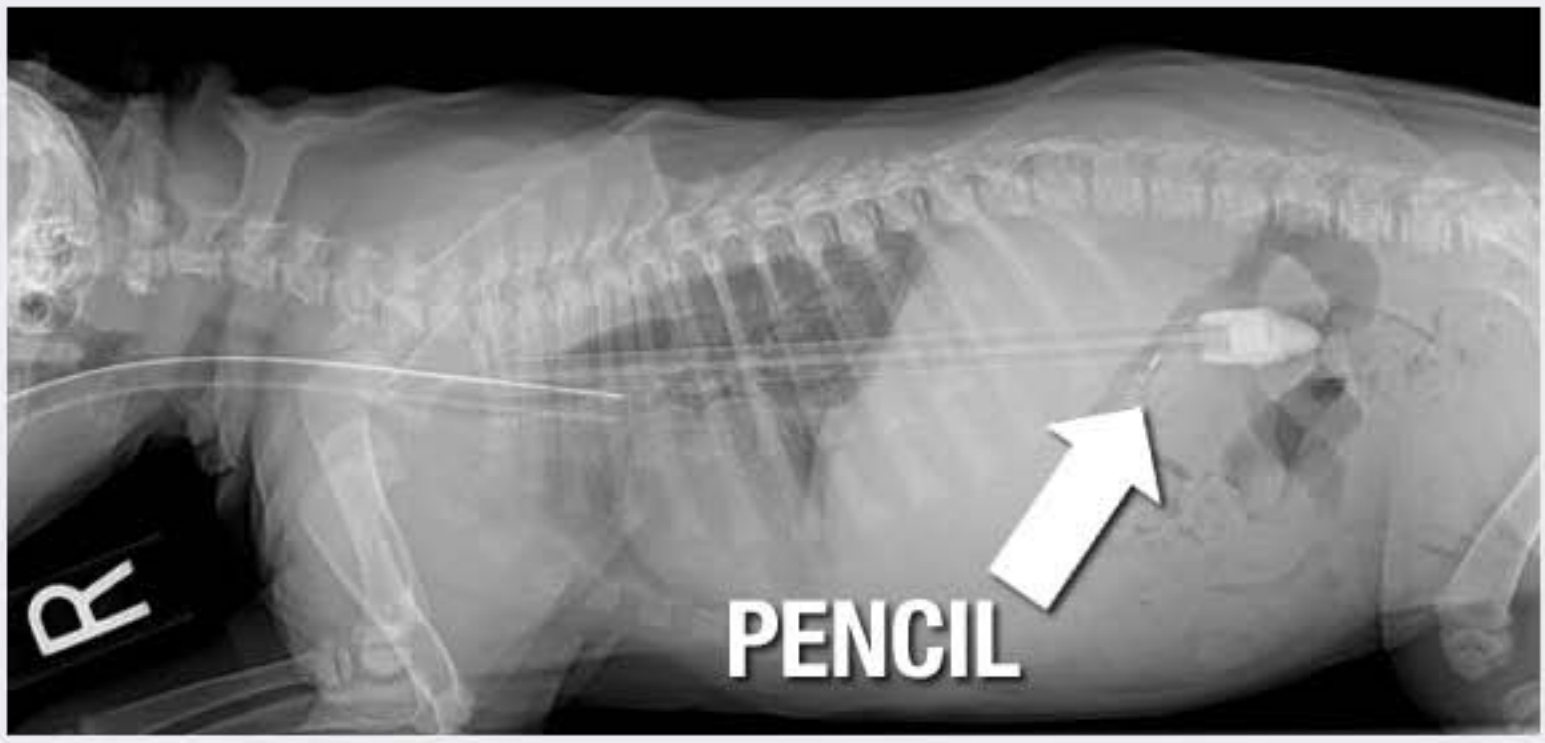
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This dog may have problems writing home to mommy about this fiasco: It swallowed a pencil.

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