

## FRACTURES OF GROWTH PLATES IN GROWING DOGS

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**Summary.** Fractures or breaks of the bones are commonly seen in young, growing dogs. In dogs less than one year of age, there are soft areas near the ends of each long bone where growth takes place. These soft areas are referred to as epiphyseal plates, otherwise known as growth plates. The growth plates are more easily fractured because they are the weakest part of the bone. The fractures of growth plates are classified according to the Salter-Harris classification system into 5 types. This classification helps to distinguish different types of fractures and provides prognostic information as well.

The study was carried out at Dr. L. Kriaučeliūnas Small Animal Clinic of Veterinary Academy of Lithuanian University of Health Sciences from October 2007 until July 2009. During this period 16 cases of growth plates fractures were registered. In our study the distal end of the humerus (upper front leg) was most common place (34%) of growth plate fractures. Furthermore, majority of registered patients were <6 month of age and had injuries of type 1 (direct injury of growth plate) or type 5 (growth plate is crushed). Postoperative complications observed only in 2 cases (12% of patients).

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