

◆ ACSMA Newsletter ◆

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Prosthetics For Puppies: A Case Report

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Orthotics and prosthetics have been in use for many years in human rehabilitation. An orthotic is defined as a device used to support an injured limb. A prosthetic is a device designed to replace a missing limb. Until now, the use of these assistive devices has been limited in the field of veterinary medicine.

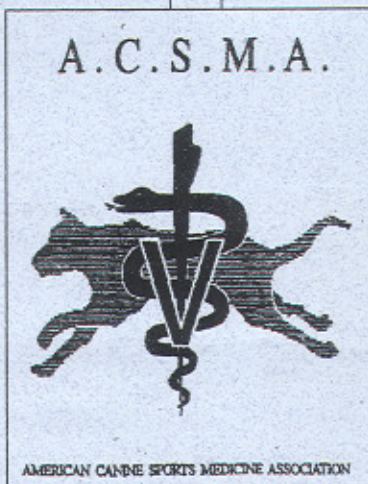
This case study describes a puppy in need of ambulation assistance secondary to a congenital deformity. **Signalment:** "Bronte Fuzzbucket", 14-week old, female, Golden Retriever. **History:** Bronte was the runt of a litter of five as a result of a 'backyard' breeding. Her mother was 8 months at the time and died of birthing complications. Bronte was born with a missing right paw. All other pups in the litter had no apparent or known deformities. Bronte was able to ambulate on her own, but unable to jump into a car or on / off a bed. She taught herself how to do stairs and was awkwardly able to ascend and descend independently. The referring veterinarian recommended amputation of the residual limb. Bronte's owners adopted her from the local Golden Retriever Rescue organization and decided to investi-

right forelimb, especially in the shoulder flexors and extensors and triceps musculature. At 7cm above the olecranon, the right forelimb muscle mass measured 14.5 cm; the left measured 17.5cm. Full elbow range of motion was present and elbow flexion was measured to be 55°. She was able to occasionally touch the right residual limb to the floor and use it for balance by dropping her head and flexing her left elbow to lower her front. The entire metacarpal pad remained at the distal portion of the residual limb.

A radiograph was taken to determine stability and anatomy of the remaining limb (Fig. 1). The radiograph revealed agenesis of the limb distal to the antebrachium with one carpal bone, the radiocarpal bone, present. The ulnar shaft showed twice than normal thickening and cranial bowing of the radius was observed.

Treatment: Martin Kaufman, A.T. (adaptive technologist) was called in to consult on this case. It was determined that Bronte had enough of the residual limb to fabricate a prosthetic to support her malformed limb.

(Continued on page 3)



ginate other options. **Clinical Presentation:** Bronte presented to the Colorado Canine Sports Medicine/Rehabilitation Clinic. Severe muscle atrophy was present in the

American Canine Sports Medicine Association

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Canine Star

News Flash! After his last treatment with Dr. Patti Schaefer, Jake took first place in his first attempt at Excellent A Jumpers. Being over 11 years old, every run is a gift and every run is fun.

Jake, BIS Am/Can Ch.
Britannia Good Day Sonshine,
AX, MXI, OAP, OJP, PDI, O-
OAC, O-OJC, O-OGC, EACV,

Canine athletes excelling in their performance sports

If you know of an athletic dog excelling in their sport, please send information to Dr. Patti Schaefer: PattiDVM@aol.com

EJCV, OOGCV, TN-O, TG-N, CD, HIC, PT, STD-s, CGC, TDI, ROM, MV, received his Master Versatility Award from the National Club and the Best in Show.

Jake is the second of only three MV dogs ever, and he is the only one living who holds that most illustrious title.

Owned and handled by:
Chrisiana Taylor



Northern California Bearded Collie Fanclub
April 18, 2003
Regional Specialty - Agility Class
Dixon, California - USA
CB Britannia Good Day Sonshine

President's Letter

As Fall approaches, those of us who care for hunting and sporting breeds will see an increase in case loads involving these breeds. Typically, owners wait until the last minute to get their dog examined before the high activity that cool weather encourages.

This might be a good time to send out a message to appropriate clients suggesting earlier examination. Recall that on the opening day of Pheasant season in the Dakotas last year, over 100 dogs succumbed to heat exhaustion. Conditioning prior to opening day might have prevented this tragedy. Sporting dog veterinarians can play a key role in protecting our patients against early season problems.

Ironically, at field trials and outdoor events, I am getting a number of questions about

hypothermia in waterfowl dogs. In my practice experience, dogs that suffered from severe hypothermia were either malnourished or sick from some other condition prior to the incident. Also, the vast majority of these hypothermic events occurred at home in poor kenneling situations as opposed to outdoor working environments. Still, clients need input about neoprene vests, signs of hypothermia, and nutrition to insure that our patients' well-being is protected. Simple things can be overlooked like drafty dog boxes in open truck beds or failure to provide adequate bedding or supplemental heat on severe nights. As part of the value-added benefits of using a sports medicine oriented veterinarian, we need to offer

our clients accurate information about hypothermia and its prevention and treatment.

As always, the Editors of this newsletter request articles, news, tips, or other information of value to the membership. I view the newsletter as a venue for dialog and information dispersal about subjects that we might miss in the larger veterinary medical publications.

Feel free to submit an article. Again, it does not have to be technical.

S. Martin Coffman DVM
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Prosthetics for Puppies (con't)

(Continued from page 1)

Bronte's leg was casted and a prosthetic was made (see Fig. 2).

Re-Evaluation: After a few minor adjustments, Bronte has advanced to wearing the prosthesis four hours per day. She shows some exaggeration of elbow flexion through the swing phase of gait, but is weightbearing on 100% of strides. Minor skin break down has impeded full-time wear of the brace. Time donning the prosthesis will slowly increase and adjustments in size will be made as she continues to grow. A radiograph will be taken each month to observe any weightbearing changes the brace may have on bony formation of her forelimb.

Special thanks to:
Martin Kaufmann, A.T.
Orthopets
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303-667-5399

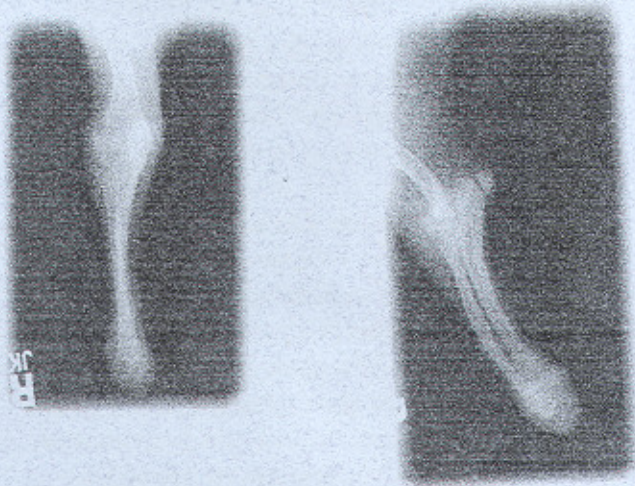


Figure 1

Radiograph of Bronte's residual right forelimb



Figure 2

Bronte donning her new forelimb prosthesis

What Is The Armbruster?

In the early 1900's, hunters in Germany realized that their needs were changing. The days of owning waterfowl dogs, upland dogs and hounds for various game were ending. As a result, breeders began crossing retrievers, pointing dogs, and hounds together and selecting for dogs that could, essentially, do all these feats in the field and marsh.

Various breeds developed as a result of this breeding effort but two have remained focused on versatile performance in hunting: the Deutsch Kurzhaar (German Shorthair) and the Deutsch Drahthaar (German Wirehair). Both these breeds have been accepted by the American Kennel Club albeit with Americanized names and Americanized breeding priorities. Only the dogs registered with the original German registry have retained their concentration on performance as opposed to the show ring.

The Deutsch Drahthaar (DD) is the most popular hunting breed in Germany. An International test, called the Hegewald, is held annually in Germany to test the natural ability of young DD's. The Hegewald is similar to a World Championship and each year, several dogs from the United States compete in the event.

Three years ago, Group North America of the DD breed group initiated a similar test to be held in the United States. The Armbruster is named after a founding breeder of the DD in the United States, Leon Armbruster. This year the Armbruster will be held in Logan UT October 6-9. Dogs from across the nation will have qualified to be included in this test and about 30 dogs will compete.

The dogs will be judged on their ability to: search a field and cover, point upland birds, do a blind retrieve on a duck, search behind a live duck in reeds, exhibit a mannerly retrieve, be insensitive to gunfire, follow a 150-meter track of a duck and a 300-meter track of a rabbit on land, and track a jumped rabbit like a hound. Also, obedience, cooperation, and nose will be evaluated along with conformation and coat quality. These dogs will be young, e.g. 18 months of age and, while training is important, the test is designed to determine natural ability as a determinant of the value of a breeding. Only dogs that have passed a series of these tests can be bred.

The Drahthaar breed is enjoying a steady increase in popularity in the United States as the versatile breeds are being recognized as a practical choice for many outdoor people. The reality is that most dogs do not get hunted enough due to regulations and time constraints. This makes a single dog that can be used in various field venues more attractive to many families. The DD has a unique appearance and inbred performance level that drives its increasing popularity. For more information on the Armbruster or the Drahthaar, visit the breed website at www.vdd-gna.org.

