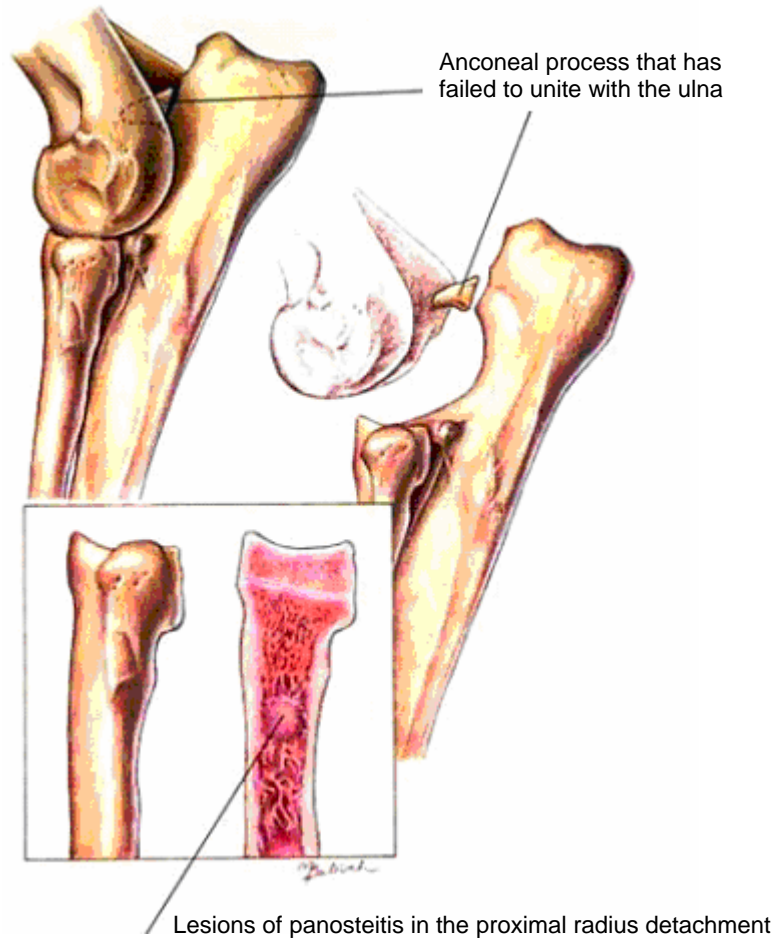


Ununited Anconeal Process



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Diagnostic Plan

History
Physical examination
X-rays

Therapeutic Plan

Surgery

Nutritional Plan

Postsurgically, nutrition adequate for tissue repair and patient growth

Ununited Anconeal Process

Your pet has an ununited anconeal process. This condition can cause intermittent or continuous lameness in young, often large breeds of dogs. Ununited anconeal processes are often removed surgically. This client education sheet will help you learn more about this condition and will review your veterinarian's instructions for your pet's care at home, as well as follow-up with the veterinary health care team

What You Should Know About an Ununited Anconeal Process

The anconeal process is part of the ulna, which is a long bone of the front leg found below the elbow. The anconeal process forms part of the elbow joint. The anconeal process normally attaches to the ulna when most pets are about five months old. Clinical signs result when it doesn't attach to the ulna and causes degenerative changes, such as arthritis, in the elbow joint. Ununited anconeal process occurs most commonly in young dogs between the ages of five and nine months.

Causes

The cause of ununited anconeal process is unknown but may involve heredity.

Diagnosis

X-rays are also necessary to confirm a diagnosis of ununited anconeal process. Sedation or anesthesia may be necessary to relax dogs so that high-quality X-rays can be taken. Most veterinarians will take X-rays of both front legs because the condition may be present in both elbows.

Treatment and Home Care

The recommended treatment for ununited anconeal process is surgery. If the anconeal process is developing normally, follow your veterinarian's instructions for giving prescribed medications and ensuring that your pet doesn't overexert itself.

If the anconeal process is healthy, your veterinarian may try to reattach it to the ulna. It is more common, however, to simply remove the anconeal process from the elbow joint. Both procedures help slow the degenerative joint disease that accompanies ununited anconeal process. Many veterinarians will bandage the leg after surgery to help reduce swelling and enforce rest.

Home care includes giving all prescribed medications, ensuring that the bandage remains dry and clean, making sure the bandage isn't too tight (look for swelling of the toes by comparing the toes on the bandaged leg with those on the other front leg), and exercising the pet according to your veterinarian's instructions. Gentle exercise, such as walking your dog on a leash, hastens a return to proper function. Call your veterinarian for a recheck appointment if your pet stops eating, removes the bandage or if you notice a discharge from the incision. Your veterinarian may also request that you bring your pet in for suture removal and bandage changes.

Most veterinarians recommend that dogs with an ununited anconeal process not be used for breeding. Consequently, your veterinarian may recommend castration or ovariohysterectomy (spaying) for your pet.

Nutritional Plan

If your pet has an ununited anconeal process, your veterinarian may give you special feeding instructions. Nutrition is especially important for optimal growth and proper development of the immune system in young dogs. Optimal nutrition should also reduce the health risks associated with feeding excess levels of nutrients such as calcium and phosphorus, which could cause skeletal problems, and excess calories, which could cause obesity. Foods formulated for optimal growth that avoid excess levels of harmful nutrients include Hill's® Science Diet® brand pet foods.

Transitioning Food

Unless recommended otherwise by your veterinarian, gradually introduce any new food over a seven-day period. Mix the new food with your pet's former food, gradually increasing its proportion until only the new food is fed.

If your pet is one of the few that doesn't readily accept a new food, try warming the canned food to body temperature, hand feeding for the first few days, or mixing the dry food with warm water (wait ten minutes before serving). Feed only the recommended food. Be patient but firm with your pet. This is important because the success or failure of treatment depends to a large degree on strict adherence to the new food.

Presented as an educational service by



Home Care Instructions

Client's Name: _____

Patient's Name: _____

Medication(s): _____

Nutritional Recommendation: _____

Follow-Up Appointment: _____

(Hospital Stamp Area Above)

REGULAR VISITS WILL HELP OUR VETERINARY HEALTH CARE TEAM PROVIDE FOR YOUR PET'S BEST INTEREST.