

- Synchronous growth of the radius and ulna is essential for normal limb development. Premature closure of a physis (growth plate) in the radius or ulna may lead to deformity and shortening of the limb. The severity of the deformity depends on the physis affected and the animal's potential for further growth.
- Premature closure of the distal ulnar physis is most common because its conical shape predisposes it to a Salter-Harris V crushing injury. This can lead to shortening of the ulna, cranial bowing of the radius, external rotation of the paw, shortening of the radius and valgus angulation of the carpus.
- Treatment depends on the maturity of the animal, the severity of deformity and the growth potential of the remaining physes. Treatment often includes 1 or more osteotomies or ostectomies and may involve placement of a plate and screws or external skeletal fixator. Circular fixators with hinges and motors can be used when angulation and length discrepancies need to be corrected in the growing animal.
- If closure of a physis is identified early in an immature patient and the remaining physes still have growth potential, then treatment could be as simple as a 1cm ulnar ostectomy and placement of an autogenous fat graft to prevent bone fusion.
- Prognosis for normal appearance and function depends on severity and the growth potential of the remaining physes. The presence of elbow and carpal incongruency and/or arthritis will also adversely affect the prognosis.

Surgery	Description
<i>Corrective osteotomy +/- stabilization</i>	Includes consult, anesthesia, surgery, hospital stay. Does not include preoperative bloodwork.

