METACARPAL FRACTURE REDUCTION WITH THOMAS DEVICE AND SCOTCHCAST IN A CALF

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The metacarpal and metatarsal fractures are the most frequent in cattle of all ages. Several immobilization methods were described and choose in each case depends on the configuration of the fracture, soft tissue injury and the presence or absence of open fractures. The Thomas device and Scotchcast have been used as a low cost and good efficacy alternative in cases of closed fractures. A male calf was referred to the Veterinary Hospital of Large Animal University of Brasilia, Brazil, with about three months. The owner reported of a right forelimb LAMENESS. It was reported that the day before the animal was not with LAMENESS and was released to pasture. In the clinical examination it was observed LAMENESS fifth grade of the right forelimb with instability in the region of the middle third of right metacarpal bone. There was no wound in the skin, and no increase in temperature and light swelling. Dorso-palmar and latero medial radiographs were taken and a comminuted fracture was observed in the diaphysis of metacarpus, with small displacement of the fragments. Because of the low weight of the animal and the need of a cheap treatment, we chose to use the Thomas device. THE CALF was sedated with 0.05 mg / kg xylazine intravenously to reducing the fracture and posterior Thomas device placement. The procedure was accompanied by radiological studies. The animal was kept in stall and received Phenylbutazone in doses of 10 mg / kg, SID for 3 days. With daily physical examination it was found weight-bearing and no pain. Eight days after placement of the splint the first signs of callus formation were observed in radiographs. However, the weight gain of calf made us change the immobilization for Scotchcast to support the weight. The cast was maintained for thirty days, when it was observed, by radiographic, bone callus formation with periosteal bridging and stabilizing the fracture. At cast removal, it was observed in the distal limb, near the metacarpophalangeal joint, a small abscess that was drained and performed daily dressings until its resolution, which occurred without any complication. The use of the Thomas device as a conservative way to reduce the fracture was effective, inexpensive and noninvasive. The association with the cast proved interesting because it offers more resistance and can be used in animals of different sizes.