Carpal Laxity in Puppies


**ABSTRACT:** In this retrospective review of cases treated at a veterinary school in Turkey, 43 dogs with carpal laxity were evaluated by clinical and radiographic examinations. The mean age of the dogs was 10 weeks, and the most common breeds were mixed breed (16 dogs) and Anatolian shepherd (9). There was no history of trauma, and puppies were fed an unbalanced, poor, or oversupplemented diet. Physical examination revealed nonpainful unilateral or bilateral carpal hyperflexion or extension or both. Radiography revealed no concomitant disease except hypertrophic osteodystrophy in one dog. Treatment involved exercise on traction surfaces (sand, grass, or carpeting), swimming, and a nutritionally balanced diet. Only one dog received an external splint. Clinical recovery occurred by 2 weeks in 65% of the puppies, and all patients recovered by 1 month. Although the exact cause of the laxity is unknown but suspected to be an imbalance between flexor and extensor muscle groups, the authors concluded that nonsurgical treatment involving physical therapy and proper nutrition provided sufficient clinical recovery.

**COMMENTARY:** Although relatively uncommon as a clinical disease in the United States, carpal laxity syndrome is suspected to be a developmental problem related to genetic and/or nutritional causes. Two factors appear to support a dietary cause: the clinical recoveries following nutritional intervention as described by the authors, and the paucity of cases in the United States, where high-quality, commercial diets are readily available. An imbalance between bone growth and musculotendinous tissues as well as weakness between flexor and extensor muscle groups may be occurring in affected animals. The physiotherapy program used by the authors appeared to alleviate these problems. Several clinical photos in the article were dramatic in providing evidence of recovery by patients.

Risk Factors for Secondary Glaucoma in Dogs: Evaluation of 156 Cases


Secondary glaucoma may be successfully treated or prevented from occurring (or progressing) if the antecedent condition is diagnosed and treated early, thereby avoiding total vision loss. This retrospective study of the medical records of 2,257 dogs uncovered 156 dogs (approximately 7%) with secondary glaucoma and evaluated their records for age at onset, breed, sex, neuter status, eye affected, and likely ophthalmic disease. The study aimed to identify the causes of glaucoma, population characteristics, and prevalence of glaucoma in dogs with anterior uveitis or lens dislocation. Potential causes were lens dislocation, anterior uveitis, intraocular cysts, cataract, hyphema, intraocular neoplasia, and ocular melanosis.
Secondary glaucoma was diagnosed most often in middle-aged to older dogs of either sex without relation to neuter status; it was bilateral in 21.2%. Overrepresented breeds included the Parson Russell terrier, poodle, Boston terrier, cocker spaniel, Rhodesian ridgeback, and Australian cattle dog. Primary causes were, in decreasing frequency, nonsurgical anterior uveitis, anterior uveitis after phacoemulsification, lens dislocation, intraocular tumor, anterior uveitis after intracapsular lens extraction, hyphema, and cataract.

**Key Finding:**
- Veterinarians should suspect secondary glaucoma when a known antecedent disease is diagnosed in a dog with any signalment. Dogs with anterior uveitis (accounting for about two-thirds of cases) and lens dislocation should especially be monitored.