

Retrospective Analysis of Pelvic Limb Fracture Management in Companion Psittacine Birds (60 Cases)

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Abstract: Pelvic limb fractures carry significant morbidity in avian patients, and although management options are well researched, published data on long-term complication rates and mortality outcomes are limited. Here, we present a cross-sectional study evaluating pelvic limb long bone fractures in companion psittacine birds presenting to an exotic-only veterinary hospital in the United Kingdom between 2005 and 2020, focusing on fixation techniques and long-term outcomes. Of the 60 cases that met the inclusion criteria, 22 separate species were represented, with an age range of 8 weeks to 25 years and an even distribution of sexes, among those that had been sexed. The majority of fractures (71.7%) were tibiotarsal; femoral (15%) and tarsometatarsal (13.3%) bones represented the other fracture sites. Several different fracture management methods were used, including external coaptation, surgery, or cage rest. Average time from fracture identification to healing was 33 days, with a median of 31 days and a range of 11–121 days. Satisfactory resolution of fracture repair was achieved in 85.5% (47/55) of cases that were able to be followed to conclusion. Complications were identified in 41.7% (25/60) of fractures of all pelvic long bones. Complications during fracture management were more common in cases treated with external coaptation. The most common complication reported was patient interference with bandages, splints, or both. This study provides an overview of pelvic limb long bone fracture management outcomes, which should prove useful for avian practitioners in clinical practice.