

## TIBIA OSTEOSYNTHESIS IN GIANT ANTEATER (*MYRMECOPHAGA TRIDACTYLA*) - CASE REPORT

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### RESUMO

The Giant Anteater (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*) is a species considered "vulnerable", that is, it has a high risk of extinction in the wild. Among the various factors that contribute to this threat, the high rate of traffic accidents is becoming increasingly worrying. In Mato Grosso do Sul it is among the species with the highest accident rate on roads that kill or cause the animal a slow death due to the immobilization of broken bones. The use of metal plates is common in veterinary orthopedics, with good results in anatomical restitution, with a low rate of complications in the postoperative period and promoting rapid functional recovery of the limb. This report was to describe osteosynthesis of the right tibia using a plate associated with the intramedullary pin. An adult anteater was taken to the Wild Animal Rehabilitation Center (CRAS) after being run over, from the beginning it was noticed that the animal had a problem with the right pelvic limb, as it did not support the limb. The radiographic examination revealed an oblique fracture in the tibia and fibula, the animal was referred for surgery. The anesthetic protocol consisted of ketamine, xylazine, telazole administration and, subsequently, morphine was administered intramuscularly. After trichotomy and asepsis, the medial tibial approach was performed. Divulsion of the adjacent tissue and muscles gave access to the bone, allowing the placement of a 3 mm pin Steinmann intramedullary and the common plate 2.5 with 6 holes using 3 proximal screws and 3 distal to the fracture. In subcutaneous and skin sutures, 3-0 nylon and 0 nylon were used, respectively, in the simple isolated pattern. In the immediate postoperative period, a local dressing was applied with an ointment based on gentamicin, sulfanilamide, sulfadiazine, followed by the application of an external antiparasitic spray. Procedure that continued to be performed daily. With analgesic and anti-inflammatory therapy, using dexamethasone and chronometer, for 3 consecutive days. Two days after surgery, the animal was able to use the affected limb. The intramedullary pin was used to reduce the risk of plaque bending. The treatment proved to be effective due to the rapid recovery in the functionality of the limb and can be used in wild animals that require use of the limb. The adopted technique proved to be satisfactory to stabilize the fracture allowing the animal to recover.

**PALAVRAS-CHAVE:** Conservation, Fracture, Orthopedics, Xenarthra.

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