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# **ANGULAR LIMB DEFORMITY**

## What is Angular Limb Deformity?

An angular deformity refers to any condition in which a limb is not straight. Deformities are found in front and rear limbs and are due to abnormal bone growth or abnormal healing from injuries. The severity is dependent on which bone is affected and patient age. Younger patients, with significant growth potential, typically get more severe deformities if left untreated. Severe untreated deformities often result in poor or complete loss of limb function due to abnormal joint forces.

#### Diagnosis

Dogs often present with lameness and odd gaits. X-rays and CT scans allow for definitive diagnosis of which bones are affected. The scans are also used to help plan the corrective surgery.

#### Treatment

3D plans are created using CT images of the limb. Specialized plates and external fixators are used to straighten the bone after guided bone osteotomies. Post-operative care for 8-12 weeks is critical to a successful outcome.



And the foot is turned out and rotated at the wrist.

is out of

alignment...

the forelimb is

greatly curved ...

After surgery...

Pre-operatively, the elbow joint



and the wrist is aligned with the elbow so that the foot is straight.



Some patients need elongation of the bone and will have a ring fixator in place of a standard fixator. This device can slowly stretch the bone to add length as well as straighten.