



Wheat Ridge Veterinary Specialists

• EXPERTISE YOU CAN TRUST •

Biologic Fracture Healing



A high energy, comminuted, gunshot fracture of the left tarsus. The bullet traveled completely through the tarsus shattering the calcaneus, talus, and first row of tarsal bones resulting in collapse of the joint.

BIOLOGIC HEALING is a fracture repair technique that allows for fracture stabilization without surgical invasion of the fracture site.



Fixation wires are placed percutaneously proximal and distal to the fracture, the fractured limb is aligned visually, and the fixation wires are connected externally with circular fixation rings and rods. The small fixation wires allow for controlled axial micromotion which promotes fracture healing while maintaining excellent mediolateral and craniocaudal fracture stability.

Avoidance of surgical invasion into the fracture site also promotes rapid healing by preserving the fracture hematoma and maintaining periosteal, muscle, and tendon attachments to the fracture fragments. The circular fixator system allows for adjustment of the fracture alignment at any time during the postoperative fracture consolidation and healing process.



Comfort & Function - most patients are very comfortable with the fixator and begin weight bearing soon after surgery. At 2 weeks postop, this patient had good early function and weight bearing on the limb.



Healing is usually very rapid. In this case the circular fixator was removed at 12 weeks postop. Healing of the tarsal fractures is complete with an arthrodesis angle of 25°. Approximately 5° of motion remains at the tibial-tarsal joint (arrow).

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