

# **SURGERIES PERFORMED IN ANTEATERS (MYRMECOPHAGA TRIDACTYLA, TAMANDUA TETRADACTYLA, TAMANDUA MEXICANA): LITERATURE REVIEW**

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## **RESUMO**

The anteaters belong to the Xenarthra superorder and are part of the Myrmecophagidae family. It is possible to find at least one of the species in every Brazilian biome, with the southern tamandua prevailing in all Brazilian territory. The family species are classified in the IUCN red list as least concern and endangered, suffering from anthropic pressure such as hunting, loss of habitat and road kills, and because of that these animals are frequently sent to veterinarian institutions, victims of traumatic injuries. Due to this, it is sometimes necessary to perform surgical procedures for stabilization and further rehabilitation of the animals. The study aims to gather data about the surgical cases performed with the anteater species, in order to define the surgical care profile present in the literature: A research was carried out on the platforms pubmed, pubvet, scielo, google scholar and science direct. Twelve works were collected regarding surgical clinical cases with anteaters. Among the twelve analysed cases, most of the surgical procedures are classified orthopaedic and traumatological, with osteosynthesis and management of fractures in the appendicular skeleton due to pedestrian accidents being the most frequent. Of the cases used, all were due to trauma (100%), eight (66,7%), were related to animals that were run over, the other four (33,3%) without being a collision as primary cause, involved a dog attack, two animals rescued on the road and one forwarded by an environmental agency. Seven (58,3%) reports are orthopaedic procedures as synthesis or fracture correction, two (16,7%) amputations due to trauma and only three (25%) of the procedures are not from traumatological origin, however, all the animals were run over. Of the species reported, five (58,3%) reports were about the *Myrmecophaga tridactyla* species, four (33,3%) about the *Tamandua tetradactyla* and one (8,3%) about *Tamandua mexicana* specie. Five (41,7%) of the reports happened in the southeast, followed by three (25%) in the midwest, two (16,7%) in the south, one in the northeast (8,3%) and one international report (8,3%). The literature presents some studies in anatomical parts to describes the anatomy and the possible access and surgical techniques specific to animals of the Myrmecophagidae family that attend their specific anatomophysiological needs, however, they are scarce, as a result of this, most surgical procedures uses adapted surgery technique from small animals. It is concluded that most of the cases are due to trauma and most surgeries are orthopedics, and because of their habits, the loss of habitat and the consequential approaching of human environment, they are frequently fatal victims of road collisions and are characterized as recurring animals in veterinary centers and environmental agencies for traumatic lesions and severe injuries, needing surgical intervention. However, regardless of scarce cirurgical reports, they are still relevant for wild animal veterinary medicine, presenting a base support to future procedures.

**PALAVRAS-CHAVE:** Anteaters, Orthopedic, Surgeries

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