

- [54] **METHOD FOR REDUCING THE SEVERITY OF HIP JOINT LAXITY IN DOGS**
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- [58] Field of Search ..... **426/2, 74, 623, 630, 426/805; 424/128, 153**

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A method for reducing the severity of hip dysplasia in animals is provided wherein the animals are fed a nutritionally balanced composition during the formative stage of growth when the animal is particularly vulnerable to hip dysplasia, in which the dietary electrolyte balance in the composition is controlled to a level that is not greater than about 20 milliequivalents/100 g. Electrolyte balance is determined according to a formula wherein:

$$\text{Dietary Electrolyte Balance (Meq/100 g)} = \text{Sodium (Meq/100 g)} + \text{Potassium (Meq/100 g)} - \text{Chloride (Meq/100 g)}$$

**4 Claims, No Drawings**