

## Pregnancy X-ray Not as easy as it looks! By Linda Knilans

It is one week before your pregnant bitch is due. It certainly would be helpful to know how many pups you can expect so you don't have any surprise late arrivals. When I talked to long time breeders Jude Wrynski and Judi Hughes, they said they always take their expectant moms to the vet sometime during the week before they are due to get an x-ray. You can get a side view, a belly view or both done and then it is just a matter of counting skeletons. Sounds easy enough, but all you have to do is look at the x-ray below and try to do a body count when they are all intertwined in a very small space!

According to Dr. Greg Burns with South Mesa Vet Hospital, the trick is to first find a skull and then the spine and ribs that go with it.

Can you count the number of pups in the below radiograph? For the answer go to page 4. (Hint, look at the bottom of the belly and toward the rear on the right.)



**X-ray Answer** They are almost as hard to count now that they are out and about! There are 5. If you could only see 4 pups in the x-ray, don't feel bad, that is all the vet saw as well.