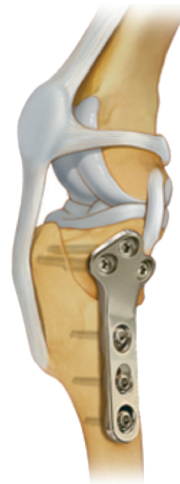


A GUIDE TO

Post-Operative Care
Tibial Plateau
Levelling Osteotomy
(TPLO) Surgery



Post-operative care and your responsibility as the owner

Your dog has just had major orthopaedic surgery and strict adherence to the following post-operative instructions will ensure the best possible chance of an uncomplicated recovery.

Medication

Please administer all medicines given to you at discharge. Occasionally dogs will develop vomiting or diarrhoea whilst taking medication (pain relief or antibiotics). **Please contact us if this happens.**

NSAID pain killer:

Please give:

Tablet(s) Times a day Number of days

Opioid:

Please give:

Tablet(s) Times a day Number of days

Other:

Please give:

Tablet(s) Times a day Number of days

Antibiotic:

Please give:

Tablet(s) Times a day Number of days

Wounds



A pad may be covering the wound at the time of discharge from the hospital. This can be removed after two days or before if soiled. Usually there will be no external stitches as the stitches are buried under the skin and will dissolve. There should be no discharge coming from the wound. **Please inform us if the wound starts to discharge or if it looks excessively swollen.** Please do not apply anything to the wound as it can cause irritation.

We normally discharge patients with a buster collar. This is to prevent your dog from licking the wound and making it sore. please leave the buster collar on for 2 weeks. If an infection were to get in through the wound, this could result in further surgery.

We recommend you apply ice packs for 10 to 15 minutes several times daily during the first few days following surgery, to reduce swelling and improve comfort. Regular, gentle massage (sweeping motions from ankle to hip) may help dissipate any oedema fluid. Massage techniques will be advised at discharge. Your vet will talk you through this if this is something your dog requires.

Re-examination appointments



You should see your own vet 5 days after surgery to ensure all is progressing as planned.

If there are stitches present these will need removing at your own vet at 10-14 days.

We will ask to see you and your pet at 6-8 weeks post-surgery. This recheck will involve x-rays to assess the implants and the healing of the bones. You will need to fast your pet in the morning before this appointment. **If everything is progressing well, exercise can be increased further, which the surgeon will discuss with you at discharge.**

If you have any queries, we are always happy to answer them.

Post-operative care



- It is better to be safe than sorry so if you are not sure about anything please contact us.
- If you are provided with pain killers please follow the instructions as directed and inform us if there is any vomiting
- Your dog should be kept confined (ideally to a large cage or alternatively a single room with **non-slip** flooring) to restrict activity. Confinement should be maintained at all times for the first six weeks following surgery.

We advise the following exercise programme after the operation:



- Short **lead** walks in the garden (a few minutes, four to six times daily) are recommended to allow toileting. A support belt/sling is useful in the first week when walking as this will reduce stress on the joints. Stairs should be avoided.
- Four weeks following surgery lead walking may commence, provided limb function has already significantly improved post-surgery. Walk slowly for 5 minutes at a time, twice daily, but maintain confinement at other times. Lead walking may gradually increase but should not exceed 10 minutes at a time, twice daily for the first six weeks following surgery.
- Hydrotherapy is beneficial (but not essential) to recovery but should only be performed in a centre with qualified personnel. Hydrotherapy may commence at three to four weeks post-surgery in a water treadmill, or at four to six weeks following surgery in a swimming pool. Any activities prior to confirmed healing of bone will introduce risk e.g. car travel to and from hydrotherapy, slipping/falling.



Signed

Owner:

Veterinary Surgeon:

Date:



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