



Postoperative Care: Tibial Tuberosity Advancement (TTA) & Tibial Plateau Leveling Osteotomy (TPLO)

1. Bandage removal 1 week postoperatively.
2. Suture removal 2 weeks postoperatively.
3. Follow-up x-rays 4 and 8 weeks postoperatively.
4. Your pet must be kept confined in a small area (airline flight kennel, 6 ft. square area), for 4 weeks time. Your pet may be walked a short distance outside on a leash up to three times daily to relieve itself only. No free activities allowed until after the 4 week x-rays that confirm normal healing. If you have your pet in a room with you it must be tied to a piece of furniture to prevent it from “running” to the door when it hears a sound.
5. If the 4-week x-rays show normal healing, then your pet may be confined to one room in the house when you are away. It may have free walk of the house when you are home (no stairs except to go upstairs to bed in the evening). If your pet is active and runs to the doorbell it needs to be confined to one room with good footing. Short leash walks outside in the backyard, to use the bathroom are allowed.
6. If the 8-week x-rays show normal healing, then you may institute progressively longer leash walks and swimming. Free run of the house and a small backyard are allowed. No off-leash running, jumping, ball playing, etc, is allowed. If at any time your pet appears weak (limb shaking) or tired, you should revert to the last distance/activity which it could tolerate without these symptoms and hold there for 1 week before once again trying to increase the activity level.
7. Between 12 and 16 weeks post-operatively, off-leash walking, jogging, and running is fine. No balls, Frisbees, dog parks, or heavy activity is allowed for 6 months post-operatively. We recommend you avoid these types of heavy activity altogether, as there is a high percentage of dogs that will tear the cruciate ligament in the opposite leg (30% - most breeds, up to 50-60 % in bull mastiffs, chows, akitas, etc.)
8. Glucosamines plus chondroitin sulfates (animal Origin) are recommended indefinitely. An average dose is 10-20 mg per pound given two times daily. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID's) such as Rimadyl, or Previcox, etc. may be used as needed to treat muscle and joint stiffness and soreness as your pet rehabilitates. Side effects of all NSAID's include vomiting, diarrhea, and blood in the stool. Certain NSAID's (Rimadyl) have been linked to liver toxicity and other problems. If your pet will be on prolonged NSAID therapy, please speak with us or your regular veterinarian regarding possible side-effects of those NSAID's and what to watch for and what blood tests to monitor.

If you have any questions, or if you need help and/or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact our office. We are available by phone during normal business hours as well as by voice mail nights and weekends. Please leave a message and one of our staff will contact you as soon as possible.