

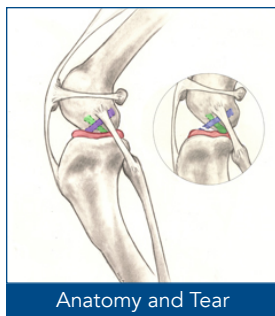


WHAT TO EXPECT DURING TPLO SURGERY

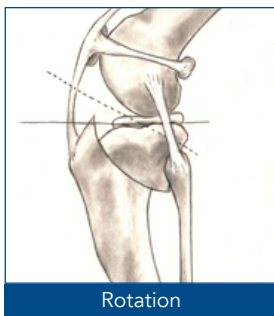
Cranial cruciate ligament (CCL) injury is one of the most common orthopedic conditions seen in veterinary medicine. It is comparable to the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in humans. This ligament is normally responsible for stability of the knee joint, specifically cranial drawer which is movement of the tibia (shin) relative to the knee.

Following injury, the instability leads to discomfort, arthritis, and possible meniscal tears. Although an acute traumatic cause is possible, most dogs slowly tear the ligament over several weeks to months due to genetic or inflammatory causes.

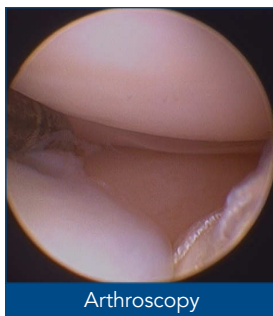
Many times, a diagnosis can be made during a physical exam. In the case of partial tears, arthroscopy is required to confirm the diagnosis. Surgery is typically recommended for dogs with partial or full CCL tears, and tibial plateau leveling osteotomy (TPLO) is the most studied and reliable procedure available.



Anatomy and Tear



Rotation



Arthroscopy



TPLO Procedure



TPLO Radiograph

How is TPLO performed?

A TPLO involves altering the joint angles of the knee by making a cut in the tibia, rotating it, and securing it in a new orientation with a bone plate and screws. By doing so, the CCL is no longer needed to maintain stability.

For the surgery, your pet is placed under general anesthesia and the joint is first explored to evaluate the meniscus. The meniscus is a pad of connective tissue between the bones of the stifle (knee) joint that aid in stability, shock absorption, load distribution, nutrition, and lubrication of the joint. If torn, it is partially removed. After the exploration, the TPLO is performed. Once the procedure is complete, your pet will be moved to our post-operative ward to begin the recovery process.

What to expect after TPLO surgery

Most patients spend one night in the hospital following surgery. Upon discharge, your pet will go home on pain medications and antibiotics, and activity will be strongly restricted for eight weeks. This is a critical part of healing.

Two weeks after surgery, your pet will have a recheck visit. At this time, physical rehabilitation will be recommended. Therapies can be done at home and/or with the CVRC physical rehabilitation department.

Eight weeks after surgery, x-rays will be taken to see whether bony healing is complete. If the bone is sufficiently healed, a slow re-introduction to activity will be recommended.

For more information

Please feel free to reach out to our Surgery Department if you have any questions.

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