

ACE VET HOSPITAL

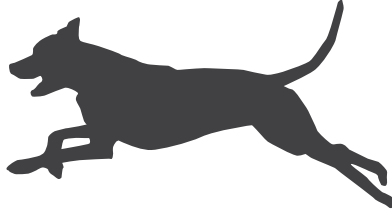
TPLO Surgery



GOLD STANDARD

**For Managing
Cruciate Disease
In Dogs**

Get Your Dog Up And Running



WHAT IS CRUCIATE DISEASE?

Cruciate disease is a degenerative condition of the cranial cruciate ligament which leads to stifle (knee) pain, lameness, instability and degenerative joint disease (arthritis). Cruciate injuries mostly occur during normal daily activities and are not associated with specific traumatic events. Patients may develop a partial or a complete tear of the cruciate ligament, both of which require treatment. Cruciate disease management aims to restore function and optimise long term mobility to the affected limb.

WHAT CAUSES IT?

There is a current knowledge gap in our understanding of cruciate disease. There are multiple contributing factors in cruciate disease such as breed and genetics, certain back leg conformations (such as abnormally straight, bowed or twisted legs), immune response and environmental factors (such as exercise intensity and frequency, diet, and body condition). Over weight patients, inactive patients or patients doing intense exercise are likely to exacerbate a propensity for cruciate disease.

**Contemporary techniques
in cruciate surgery and physical
rehabilitation mean most dogs
have excellent outcomes.**

WHAT IS A TPLO?

A tibial plateau leveling osteotomy (TPLO) is a procedure which stabilises the stifle joint during movement and removes the need for the cruciate ligament. The basic concept of TPLO is the modification of the end of the tibia to change the angle of the bone. A very specific set of radiographs are required to make measurements which determine the amount of adjustment required. This change in angle is achieved by cutting the tibia, changing their relative position and stabilising it with a plate and screws. TPLO surgery is considered the gold standard in cruciate disease management and most patients have excellent outcomes.

Gus is a very PHYSICAL and lovely German Short Haired Pointer.

Gus's owner, Frances said, *“Our Vet recommended Dr Andrew Jacotine to perform TPLO surgery. We felt that the professional guidance in conjunction with the literature given to us aided in Gus's speedy recovery. All went really well and Gus is back to chasing and catching rabbits on the farm!”*

HOW IS IT PERFORMED?

Firstly, keyhole surgery or arthroscopy is performed with a very small camera to examine the inside of the stifle joint. The cruciate ligament is visualised and assessed, and damaged tissues are removed. Secondly, a surgical approach is made to the bones of the stifle on the inside of the patient's leg. Once exposed, measurements are made and a single curved cut is performed. Once the bone has been cut and adjusted a bone plate and screws are applied to stabilise the bone again. These are very strong and will hold the repair rigidly still allowing for bone healing and some basic activity.

THE BENEFITS OF ARTHROSCOPY AND TPLO SURGERY:

- **EXCELLENT OUTCOMES**

Excellent outcomes for both small and large dogs.

- **LOW COMPLICATIONS**

Considerably less pain, during and post operatively.
Least post operative arthritis.

- **FAST RECOVERY**

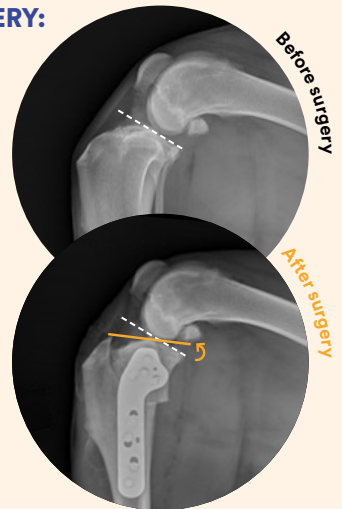
A rapid return to normal function and activity.
Requires less intensive aftercare.

- **COMPREHENSIVE SURGERY**

Able to manage partial and complete cruciate tears.
Can address other issues such as patella luxation.

- **HIGHEST STANDARD**

The gold standard for management of cruciate disease.



The angle of the tibial plateau is corrected and the stifle joint stabilised with a bone plate.

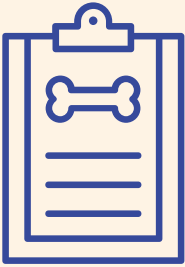
WHAT ARE THE RISKS OF SURGERY?

As with any surgical procedure, there are risks associated with the TPLO procedure. We take actions during the procedure to minimise risk of anaesthesia, and the surgical intervention. Overall the risks are low and outcomes are excellent and clients will be informed of these in detail. Following our aftercare guidelines is also vitally important.

WHAT AFTERCARE IS REQUIRED?

After surgery the patient will require a period of recovery and rehabilitation. The recovery period is approximately twelve weeks, with initial strict cage rest and then a program of gradual, controlled return to exercise. Eight weeks after the surgery an x-ray will be done to check on the progress of bone healing.





FIND OUT MORE

For further information please don't hesitate to contact
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Or ask about our services at your local clinic

