



Orchard Road Veterinary Surgery, Inc
A mobile small animal veterinary surgical service

Post-operative TPLO Patient Care for the Veterinarian:

See Discharge instructions and Physical therapy sheet for additional instructions and recheck schedule.

Most TPLO patients begin to bear weight on the operated limb within a day or two of surgery. Some better than others. It is not uncommon for there to be swelling and sometimes edema distal to the tibia for the first week. Most TPLO patients also tend to turn the limb out slightly for the first 6-8 weeks until the bone is healed and then it tends to straighten.

Keep these patients on a NSAID for 4 weeks and then refill as needed until they are bearing very good weight. Or use intermittently as needed for pain relief.

If at any time the patient comes up acutely lame or is persistently lame then take 2 view radiographs to look for any signs of complication

Non-surgical complications include fibula fracture, patellar tendonitis (thickening of the tendon insertion and pain on palpation). These usually require strict rest and NSAID for a couple of weeks.

Potentially revision surgical complications include: tibial tuberosity fracture, screw breakage with shifting of the osteotomy (rock back of the proximal segment and loss of stability)

Please send any films including the original set to Dr. O'Brien for evaluation.

Scheduled radiograph recheck is at 8-10 weeks post-op. This visit usually requires sedation.

See the other handout on how best to position the patient for the TPLO radiographs.

Look for any complications. Signs of good healing are stable position of the implants and bone.

Bridging bone along the caudal osteotomy on the lateral view and bridging bone lateral to the osteotomy on the CdCR view.

If the osteotomy is not yet healed then recheck films again in 4-6 weeks. The patient should in general be using the leg well at this point in time.

Call if you have any concerns or questions:

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