

## Post-operative Care for TPLO Surgery

For eight to twelve weeks following surgery, a strict confinement regime is required with three important principles.



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1. Your pet can be inside, on carpeted surfaces, **under your direct supervision**. They can wander around the room at a slow walk as long as it is not constant. Running, jumping, bounding, playing, etc., are **not allowed**.
2. They must be **on a leash at all times when outside** for airing and going to the toilet. If they have to cross slick floors or uneven ground, you need to use a "belly-band" in case it slips or stumbles. The "belly-band" is not used for support but rather as a safety net to protect your pet, *Your dog is not allowed to be off lead when outside or to go for an actual walk.*
3. When not under your direct supervision, he/she is to be **confined in a small room**.

### **General Information:**

- a. Playing with other animals is not allowed during confinement. If there are other pets in your household, you will need to keep them separated.
- b. During confinement, their food intake needs to be reduced to help prevent weight gain. Most dogs will maintain their current weight if their food intake is cut in half. Water consumption should remain normal.
- c. The first two weeks following surgery you will need to monitor the wound. Licking or chewing can cause infection or sutures to loosen. If you notice that your pet has started licking, you will need to take steps to discourage it from doing so.
- d. It takes a minimum of six to eight weeks for bones to heal.
- e. One of the most difficult aspects of confinement is that dogs will frequently feel better long before they are healed. At this point they will start being more careless of the operated limb and then more likely to be overactive and injure themselves. Until the bone is healed, you must adhere strictly to the confinement guidelines and not allow them to do more.
- f. If your dog is jumping or bouncing in the confined area, he/she is being too active. Tranquilizers may be required to help alleviate your pet's anxiety or control his/her activity. But these are best avoided for many reasons.
- g. If at any time during their recovery and healing he/she does anything that causes him/her to cry out or give a sharp yelp, contact your vet.
- h. If at any time during your pet's recovery and healing he/she has a set back or decrease in function, contact your vet.
- i. It is imperative that you inform your vet at once if your pet does something that is potentially harmful to the surgery. If something has occurred which jeopardizes the outcome of surgery, it is usually less difficult to correct if it is caught right away, which leads to a better outcome for your pet.
- j. **If your pet is too active during his/her confinement it may injure itself or slow healing which increases the amount of time your pet must be confined.**
- k. Suggested exercise limits are:- short lead walks for 5 minutes 3-5 times a day for the first 2-3 weeks followed by a gradual increase to approximately 10-15 minutes by week 8.
- l. X-rays are taken under general anaesthetic 8-10 weeks post operation to insure the bone is healing. The cost of these x-rays will have been included in your original total estimate but will need to be paid for at the time.