Boulevard Animal Hospital

Post-Operative Care Instructions for TPLO (Tibial Plateau Leveling Osteotomy) Surgery

Dear Pet Owner,

Thank you for trusting Boulevard Animal Hospital with your pet’s TPLO surgery. TPLO surgery is a common procedure performed to treat cranial cruciate ligament (CCL) injuries in dogs. To ensure your dog heals properly and recovers as quickly as possible, it’s important to follow these post-operative care instructions carefully. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at [Insert Clinic Phone Number] or visit us at Boulevard Animal Hospital.

1. General Care

- Rest and Confinement: After TPLO surgery, your dog will need to rest and be confined to a small, quiet area for the first several weeks. Limit their movement to prevent strain on the operated leg and allow the bone to heal properly.

- For Dogs: Use a crate or small room to keep your dog from excessive movement. You may want to leash-walk your dog for bathroom breaks, but keep walks short and controlled.

- No Rough Play or Running: Your dog should not run, jump, or engage in any vigorous play during the recovery period.

- Supervision: Closely supervise your dog, especially when outside for bathroom breaks. Make sure they are not tempted to run or jump on uneven surfaces.

2. Incision Care

- Check the Incision Site: Inspect the incision daily for any signs of infection, such as redness, swelling, warmth, or discharge. A small amount of clear fluid or minor bruising around the incision is normal for the first few days.

- Keep the Incision Dry: Prevent the incision from getting wet. Do not bathe your dog or let them swim until your veterinarian clears you to do so, usually after the sutures are removed and the incision is fully healed.

- Prevent Licking or Chewing: If your dog attempts to lick or chew at the incision, an Elizabethan collar (E-collar) is necessary to prevent infection and irritation. Be vigilant in making sure the collar stays in place until your dog is healed.

3. Bandage Care (if applicable)

- Bandage Monitoring: If your dog has a bandage on the operated leg, make sure it remains dry and clean. Check the bandage for any signs of tightness, slippage, or wetness. If you notice any of these issues, please contact us immediately.

- Bandage Changes: If a bandage was applied at the time of surgery, it may need to be changed within the first 48-72 hours. If you are unsure about when or how to change the bandage, please contact us for instructions.

4. Medications

- Pain Management: Administer any prescribed pain medications as directed. Pain management is crucial to your dog’s comfort and recovery. Do not skip doses or adjust the medication without consulting your veterinarian.

- Antibiotics: If antibiotics were prescribed, complete the full course to prevent infection. Never stop the antibiotics early, even if your dog seems to be feeling better.

- Avoid Human Medications: Never give your dog any human pain medications (e.g., aspirin, ibuprofen) or over-the-counter drugs, as these can be harmful or toxic to dogs.

5. Feeding and Hydration

- Diet: Your dog’s appetite may be decreased after surgery, especially in the first 24-48 hours. You can offer a bland diet such as boiled chicken and rice or their regular food in smaller portions. Gradually return to their normal food once they are eating consistently.

- Hydration: Ensure your dog has access to fresh water at all times. If they are not drinking enough, try offering ice cubes or small amounts of water from a syringe or spoon to encourage hydration.

6. Activity Restrictions

- Leash Walks Only: After TPLO surgery, limit your dog’s activity to short leash walks for bathroom breaks only. The first 4-6 weeks post-surgery are critical for healing. Gradually increase their activity only as directed by your veterinarian.

- Limit Movement: Avoid letting your dog climb stairs, jump on or off furniture, or engage in any strenuous activity. You should restrict all vigorous activity for at least 8-12 weeks, depending on the specific surgical plan and your dog’s recovery progress.

- Physical Therapy: Your veterinarian may recommend physical therapy or controlled rehabilitation exercises after a few weeks to help restore strength and mobility in the leg. Follow these instructions carefully to support your dog’s recovery.

7. Follow-Up Appointments

- X-Rays and Healing Progress: Follow-up visits are crucial for monitoring your dog’s healing progress. Typically, X-rays will be taken at 6-8 weeks post-surgery to ensure proper bone healing and to check the alignment of the tibia.

- Suture Removal: If your dog had external sutures or staples, these will be removed at the 10-14 day follow-up appointment.

- Rehabilitation: Depending on your dog’s progress, physical therapy may be recommended to help regain muscle strength and joint flexibility. This may begin once the bone has healed sufficiently.

8. When to Contact Us

Please contact us immediately if your dog experiences any of the following:

- Excessive Pain: If your dog shows signs of uncontrolled pain, such as crying, whining, reluctance to move, or inability to settle down despite pain medication.

- Infection or Incision Issues: If you notice signs of infection at the incision site, such as increasing redness, swelling, warmth, or pus-like discharge.

- Changes in the Leg or Bandage: If the operated leg appears more swollen, misaligned, or the bandage becomes loose, tight, or wet.

- Behavioral Changes: If your dog becomes lethargic, refuses to eat or drink for more than 24 hours, or has unusual behavior.

Mobility Issues: If your dog has trouble standing, walking, or showing signs of severe limping, contact us for further evaluation.

Contact Information

If you have any questions or concerns during your cat's recovery, please don’t hesitate to -

Contact us

Phone: (562)-633-6514

Address: 2139 E. Artesia Blvd Long Beach, 90805

Website: bahlb.com

Telemedicine - Need to contact us after clinic hours? Our doctors may be available for immediate consults on Hubavet. Download Hubavet on the App Store or Google Play to chat with a doctor immediately.

Thank you for allowing Boulevard Animal Hospital to care for your dog. We are committed to helping your dog achieve a full recovery and return to a pain-free, active life!

Sincerely,

Boulevard Animal Hospital Team