

Hip Dysplasia – Triple Pelvic Osteotomy

Hip Dysplasia is most common in pure-bred large breed dogs such as German Shepherds, Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, Rottweilers and Newfoundlands. Many other large breeds and some smaller breeds may also be affected.

The basic problem in canine hip dysplasia is laxity or looseness of the hip joint whilst the pup is growing. This leads to abnormal weight bearing force within the ball and socket joint of the hip and abnormal wear on the cartilage surface leading to arthritis. Treatment depends on the timing of diagnosis and the degree of arthritic change already present. Treatment options are broadly classified as preventative or salvage. Triple Pelvic Osteotomy (TPO) is the main preventative procedure used in canine hip dysplasia.

A TPO is a surgical procedure that frees the “socket” section of the pelvis so that it can be rotated into a better position over the “ball” of the femoral head. The advantage of this procedure is that the conformation of the hip joint can be immediately improved giving the chance of life-long health of the joint. The procedure is designed to reduce the onset of arthritis in the joint.

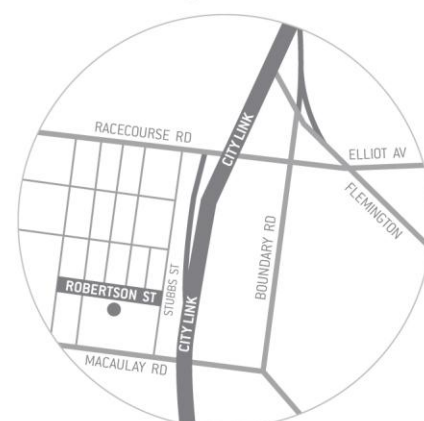
It is very important that the degenerative changes in the hip are absent to minimal as there is no point in doing this procedure when the arthritis is advanced. Pre-operative radiographs and clinical examination will determine if your pet is a candidate for TPO.

As with all surgery, there is a small risk to consider. TPO is a major procedure however with good aftercare and attention to post-operative instructions a good result can reliably be achieved. There is a very small anaesthetic risk, a small risk of infection, a very small risk of nerve damage and a small chance that arthritis will continue despite the procedure.

After surgery your pet will need to be strictly rested for 5 weeks with follow-up radiographs scheduled at this time to check on healing of the surgery. Pain is treated very strongly in our practice with oral, transdermal (patch) and epidural pain relief given for this procedure. We expect that all our patients will be walking again on the operated leg within 1-2 days and mostly your pet will be back home with you within a day or two. They will be sporting an Elizabethan collar to minimise any self trauma of the three surgical wounds we require to perform this procedure.

If you suspect your new pup has trouble rising and tends to run with a “bunny-hopping” gait then your pup may be showing early signs of hip dysplasia. The earlier the condition is diagnosed the more treatment options and the better the outcome.

Melway Ref: 2A, A4



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