

Cruciate Injury in Dogs

By far the most common orthopaedic injury treated in our practice is cruciate rupture in dogs. Cruciate rupture is a common cause of hind limb lameness in dogs and is more common in larger breeds.

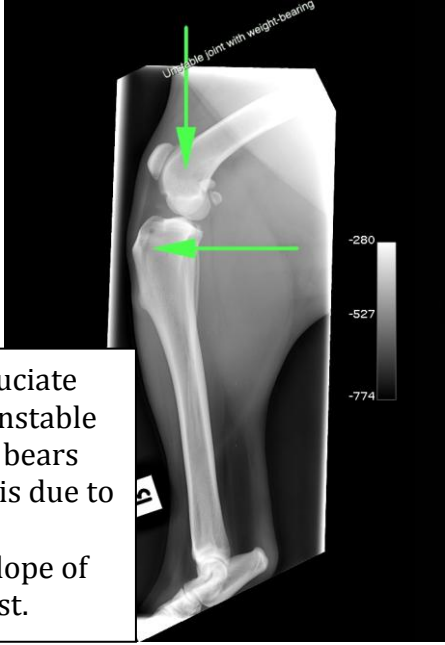
Many different surgical treatments have been used to treat cruciate rupture. There is little support in the literature supporting one technique over another, rather the best outcome is achieved is when the surgeon performs a procedure they familiar with that has repeatedly good results. At Advanced Vetcare we perform over 300 cruciate procedures per year.

Cruciate rupture in dogs is often not related to major trauma as it is in humans. As the dogs get larger and more active it is more common that the ligament is gradually overloaded leading to rupture and concurrent arthritis.


Surgical Treatment

In large dogs a TPLO (tibial plateau leveling osteotomy) is our preferred technique. Using special instrumentation the biomechanics of the knee is changed such that the cruciate ligament is no longer critical to stifle stability.

The procedure involves leveling the top of the tibia (shin) bone and then placing a bone plate to allow the bone to heal. This generally takes 6 weeks.



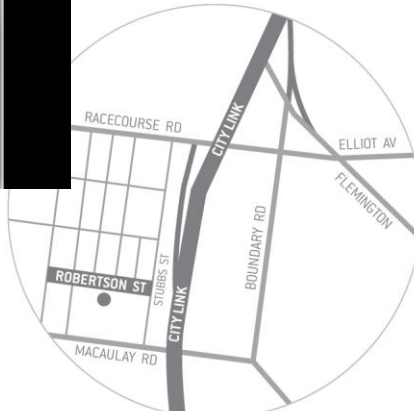
Unstable joint with weight-bearing



After surgery the tibial plateau is flat compared to the ground and there is inherent stability of the joint with weight-bearing.

Without a cruciate the knee is unstable with the dog bears weight. This is due to the natural backwards slope of the tibial crest.

Melway Ref: 2A, A4



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