

## TPLO Implant Removal Discharge Instructions

Unfortunately, implants can act as a nidus for infection. Once bacteria establish themselves on the plate they secrete a biofilm which prevents the infection from being treated with antibiotics. Once the implants are removed, the infection resolves in most cases. There is a small chance that the infection persists and additional treatments may be required.

The plate and screws used in the TPLO only function to hold the bone in a specific position until the bone heals. Once the bone heals, the implants do not serve a purpose. Removing the plate and screws does not impact the outcome of the surgery.

Complications include persistent infection and incisional dehiscence. There are areas of the bones that are slightly weaker and excessive activity could cause a fracture through an empty screw hole but this is uncommon after a TPLO Plate Removal (Explant).

### **INCISION CARE:**

A Hypafix bandage was placed after surgery. Try to leave this on for 24 hours.

- Please monitor the incision for dehiscence (opening) or any signs of infection including redness, swelling, heat, and discharge. If you see any of these signs, please contact your primary care veterinarian.
- Do not allow your pet to bother the incision site (lick, scratch, or rub). Your pet should wear an Elizabethan Collar at all times when not directly supervised until the incision is healed and sutures or staples are removed. Failure to follow this recommendation could lead to complications at your pet's incision site.
- Do not allow the incision to get wet (no baths or swimming) until the incision is healed.
- Skin sutures or staples, if present, will need to be removed in 10-14 days.
- You may continue to ice your pet's incision site 3-4 times daily for 10-15 minutes each time for the next 3 days to decrease postoperative pain and inflammation. Always place a protective layer, such as a thin towel, between the ice pack and your pet's skin.
- After 3 days, you may switch to a warm compress 3-5 times daily for 3-5 more days if the surgical site appears bruised, painful, or swollen. Always test the warm pack to make sure it is not too hot and place a protective layer, such as a thin towel, between the warm pack and your pet's skin.

**ALLOWING YOUR PET TO LICK THE INCISION, EVEN FOR SHORT PERIODS, SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASES THE RISKS OF INCISION COMPLICATION AND INFECTION.**

### **EXERCISE RESTRICTION:**

Your pet should be confined to a kennel or small room when not directly supervised for the next two weeks. When not in a kennel or small room, they should be on a leash and directly supervised. In many cases, sedation may be required to keep your pet calm and compliant in their kennel. Please discuss this with your primary veterinarian if you feel your pet is becoming anxious or stressed.

- Weeks 1-2:
  - No running, jumping, playing with other pets, or uncontrolled off leash activities are allowed
  - Your pet should be allowed to go out only for urination and defecation 3-4 times daily and should always be on a leash.
  - During the first two weeks your pet can be taken on a short leash walk. This should be limited to 5-10 minutes. Walk the pet slow enough that they use the affected leg with each step.

**INADEQUATE RESTRICTION OF ACTIVITY IS A COMMON CAUSE OF POSTOPERATIVE COMPLICATION AND INCREASED VETERINARY COSTS.**

**DIET:**

Your pet can resume their normal diet. If they are not interested in their regular diet, you can try plain white rice, chicken breasts (unseasoned), and/or cottage cheese

**MONITORING:**

- Your pet should gradually increase the amount of weight that they put on the affected leg. They should be using their leg consistently within the first 5-7 days. If they are not using this leg consistently within this time period please call your primary care veterinarian so they can re-evaluate them.
- Your pet may have a decreased appetite following anesthesia and surgery. This is not unusual and is often due to the pain medications and stress of hospitalization. Please monitor your pet's appetite and call your primary care veterinarian if they are not eating in the next few days.
- Anesthesia and pain medication can cause constipation. It is not unusual for pets to go several days without a bowel movement.

**You may notice swelling in the area of the ankle 2-3 days after surgery. This is normal because the swelling that is at the surgery site post operatively will move down the leg due to gravity**

**MEDICATIONS:**

**Your pet received an injection of Nocita at the incision site. This is a long lasting local anesthetic that will help keep them comfortable for the first 72 hours after surgery.**

**The most common medications used after surgery are anti-inflammatories and antibiotics. Please follow the directions provided by your veterinarian.**

Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory drugs, or NSAIDs, are used to treat post operative pain and inflammation. They are typically given for 10-14 days following surgery. Side effects include vomiting, diarrhea, and decreased appetite. If you notice any of these signs or dark, tarry stools please discontinue the medication and call your primary veterinarian. If your pet has been on any NSAID or steroid make sure to tell your veterinarian. **GIVING MORE THAN ONE TYPE OF NSAID, SUDDENLY SWITCHING FROM ONE NSAID TO ANOTHER, OR GIVING NSAIDS**

AND STEROIDS AT THE SAME TIME CAN SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE THE RISK OF SIDE EFFECTS.

Antibiotics can help decrease the risk of infection but will not replace proper incision care. Most antibiotics are given for 7-10 days following surgery. Just like their use in people, not giving the correct dose or not finishing the course may lead to resistance.

**RECHECKS:**

Your pet needs to have their incision checked in 10-14 days. Sutures or staples, if present, will be removed at that time and your veterinarian will evaluate your pet's progress. Please call your primary veterinarian for scheduling.

THANK YOU FOR TRUSTING WITH YOUR PETS CARE!

Houston Mobile Veterinary Services