

THE ANTERIOR CRUCIATE LIGAMENT (ACL)



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Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) rupture is the the leading cause of lameness in a dog's hind legs and worldwide causes significant impact on a dog's quality of life.

There are a number of ligaments in a dog's stifle (knee) that contribute to joint stability. However, the ACL is the most prone to injury. It is the primary ligament responsible for limiting "cranial drawer" motion (excessive forward and backward sliding of the femur on the tibia bone).

When a dog has a partial tear or completely ruptures this ligament the joint instability causes inflammation and pain which is why your dog favours the leg and is lame.

Osteoarthritis, degenerative joint disease or degenerative arthritis is a form of arthritis caused by inflammation, breakdown and the eventual loss of cartilage in the joints. There are many factors that lead to the progression of osteoarthritis; failure to stabilise this joint will accelerate this process which is why we recommend TPLO surgical intervention.

WHAT IS A TPLO?

The TPLO (Tibial Plateau Levelling Osteotomy) has become the most recognised and successful procedure to deal with ACL disease and give the dog its mobility back.

During TPLO surgery, a circular cut is made in the top of the tibia (shin bone) and the smaller portion of bone is rotated to reduce the slope of the tibia. A special plate is used to hold the two bone segments together. Over time the bone segments will heal together to provide life long stability and reduce long term degenerative arthritis.

