

TPLO IN DOGS

UNDERSTANDING THE BASICS

WHAT IS TPLO SURGERY

TPLO, or Tibial Plateau Leveling Osteotomy, is a surgery performed on dogs to stabilize the stifle (knee) joint after a rupture to the Cranial Cruciate Ligament. This is comparable to an ACL tear in humans.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

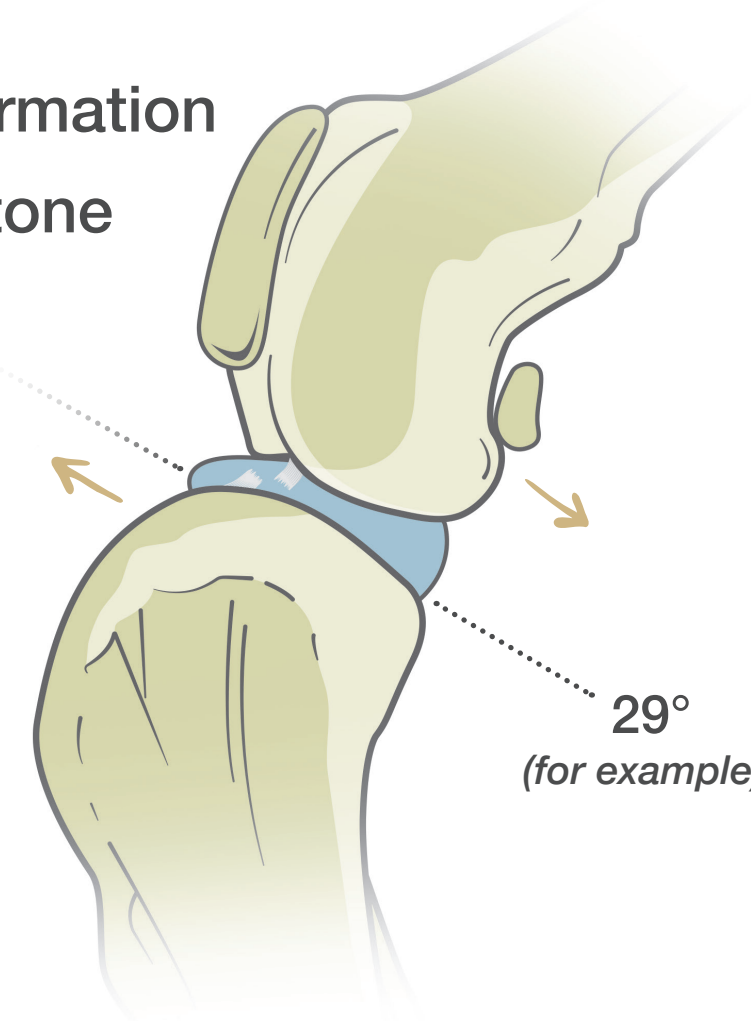
- Lameness
- Decreased activity
- Clicking or popping of the knee
- Trouble sitting or "side-saddle" sitting
- Wobbly knee
- Difficulty rising or jumping
- Wincing

WHAT CAUSES THIS TO HAPPEN?

Often, degeneration of the cruciate ligament is due to factors such as:

- Breed disposition
- Wear and tear
- Bone deformity / conformation
- Obesity / poor muscle tone
- Injury

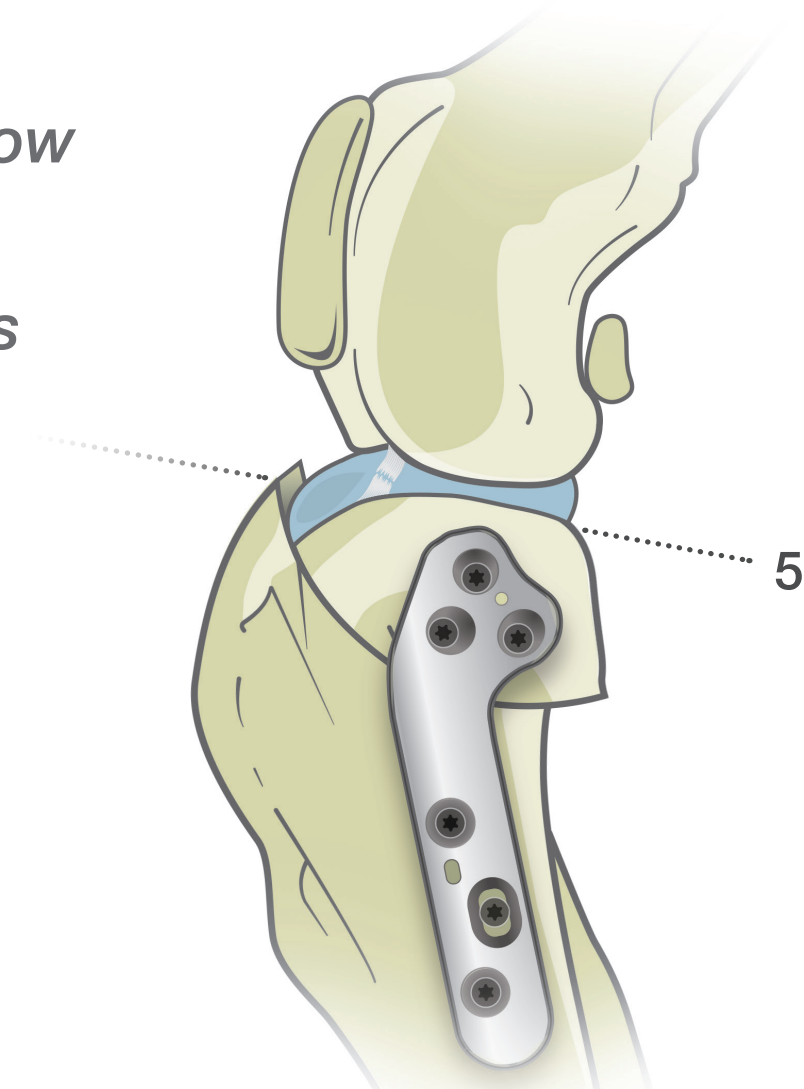
The ruptured ligament causes joint instability and allows the femur to slide backwards off the tibia. This is known as "Tibial Thrust"



TREATMENT

To remedy this, a portion of the tibia is cut and rotated. A TPLO Plate is then placed on the tibia to secure the osteotomy.

The Tibial Plateau is now level, the joint is more stable and the femur is less likely to slide. This eliminates the thrusting movement so the dog can move without pain.



RECOVERY

Until your surgeon approves more activity, your dog should:

- Get lots of rest
- Leash walk only with minimal activity

It may be recommended that your dog participates in post-op physical therapy in order to help recovery.

Please discuss detailed recommendations with your surgeon.

After 8-12 weeks, your dog should be around 95% healed and is free to have untethered fun.

