

Cruciate Ligament Surgery

FOR DOGS



What is Cruciate Ligament Surgery?

Surgery to treat lameness caused by Cranial Cruciate Ligament (CCL) trauma or disease is one of the dogs' most common orthopaedic operations. Recently, surgery has been developed called the Modified Maquet Procedure (MMP). This uses a titanium foam wedge insert in the knee joint.

The success rate is very high, and the complication rate is very low compared to many older techniques. The costs for many CCL procedures can be very high. We pride ourselves on giving you a cost-effective alternative when choosing where to send your pet for surgery.

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What is Cranial Cruciate Ligament (CCL) trauma or disease in humans?

For example, crucial ligament ruptures are typically seen as acute sporting injuries in footballers and skiers. In dogs, it is a little different.

In most dogs, the condition is a chronic degenerative condition. The ligament degenerates and gets weaker with time and, at some point, will start to tear. The signs associated with the initial stages of the condition can be subtle and may be missed –such as stiffness on rising from rest and mild, occasional lameness.

Diagnosis

The diagnosis is often made on palpation/manipulation of the stifle, although in many dogs, this requires sedation. X-rays may show signs of osteoarthritis (OA or arthritis).

Contact us today to arrange an initial consultation

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Treatment

Your pet may show one of three responses to treatment:

- Some small dogs (less than 15kg) may do well with a period of rest and anti-inflammatories alone. However, surgery generally offers a quicker and more reliable recovery. Larger dogs are less likely to do well without surgery, so surgery is always advised. Surgery involves stabilisation of the joint.
- Without an osteotomy, we can offer the Lateral Suture Technique, which involves placing a special nylon crimped suture behind the lateral fabella to a small hole drilled in the tibial crest. The concept of this repair is to stabilise the joint with the prosthetic suture by placing it in a similar direction and toughness to the original cruciate ligament.
- Osteotomy techniques are reliable and safe, even in active or large/giant breeds of dogs. They include Tibial Plateau Levelling Osteotomy (TPLO), Tibial Tuberosity Advancement (TTA) and the Modified Maquet Procedure (MMP), amongst others. These operations are all designed to remove the shear forces on the joint, thus alleviating pain and lameness. They are all more complex procedures and inevitably involve the risk of some complications but usually give a much better outcome, and recoveries are quicker than lateral sutures.

