



Fairfield Animal Hospital

(330) 482-9755

After Hours Emergency Clinic 330-530-8387// Akron Veterinary Referral 330-665-4996.

## Discharge Instructions

11/16/2023

### Post TPLO Surgery Home Care Instructions

**Procedure:** Your pet has gone through a TPLO surgery (Tibial Plateau Leveling Osteotomy). This procedure is meant to change the structure of the knee. The TPLO surgery has improved success at eliminating long term development of arthritis and it also leads to normal activities in the future.

**The TPLO surgery was a very extensive surgery.** It is very important during the time of healing that your pet is under strict exercise restriction for 12 weeks unless directed otherwise. Your dog does not understand that they just went through a major surgery so be aware that your pet will want to return to normal activity quickly.

- It is very important that you confine your pet to a small room or crate. No stairs, running, jumping, rough housing, or playing with housemates.
- Only take your dog outside on a leash to urinate or defecate, no walks. Ideally your dog should not be putting excessive pressure on their leg, so please use a towel under the abdomen to help them walk.

You will need to monitor your dog very closely for any signs of infection. A small amount of reddish fluid at the incision site can be normal for the first 2-3 days, but should not continue after 5 days after surgery.

- Bruising or swelling is to be expected. The leg will be very sore so use caution with touching the leg.
- Most pets that have this procedure done may have a delay in bowel movements - this is normal.
- An e-collar is required because then your dog will not have access to licking the incision.

**Post Operative Care:** We recommend in two weeks to return back for suture removal with a technician. A recheck appointment will need to be made with Dr. Shannon in 4 weeks after surgery. At this time, Dr. Shannon will determine when the sedated radiographs will be performed so we can evaluate the implant and healing of the bone. This is typically done between 8-12 weeks after surgery.

Dr. Shannon dispensed multiple different medications. It is important to give them as directed. Some of the pain medication and sedatives will need to be given all the way through the 12 week recovery. If you are running low, please call us so we can refill them.

**Please follow the instructions below:**

1. Trazodone
2. Carprofen
3. Gabapentin
4. Tramadol
5. Cefpodoxime

**Other important directions regarding after-care:**

1. Your dog may or may not be using the surgery leg after surgery.
2. Most dogs will begin to use their surgery leg within 14 days after surgery. Use of the leg will start with light weight bearing, progressing slowly to increased weight bearing over the next 6-8 weeks. Generally the full benefits of surgery are only really visible after 3-4 months.
3. Your pet should want to eat, drink, and act normal at home. Use caution in regards to weight gain since your dog will not be as active as normal.
4. Some swelling and bruising is normal following surgery. The knee may be swollen but it should gradually reduce in size over the next week. Please call our office if the swelling is not decreasing.
5. You will need to monitor your pets incision during the first two weeks after surgery to ensure they are not licking or chewing the area. Infection can lead to dangerous complications during recovery.

If you are concerned at any point about your pets progress or recovery, please contact us.

You can call or text us at 330-482-9755  
Fairfield Animal Hospital

Thank you for trusting us with your pets care!

Dr. Shannon Gill, DVM

