



Take Home Instructions for Tibial Tuberosity Advancement (TTA)

Rupture of the Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) is the most common orthopedic surgery performed in the stifle. It is the most frequent cause of rear leg lameness in adult dogs. Some breeds such as the Labrador and Rottweiler are often affected, but almost all breeds are seen for surgery to repair this injury.

Often the history of the injury is that the patient has had off and on lameness over several weeks or months. Suddenly the lameness is much worse and they hold the leg up. By the time we see the patient, there may be less lameness but the damage is going to progress if repair is not done.

The anterior cruciate ligament is one of two crossing ligaments in the center of the knee or stifle joint. These two ligaments prevent the upper and lower parts of the joint from sliding back and forth in relation to one another. Most of the stress is on the ACL and only rarely is the posterior ligament torn. When the ligament starts to fray and becomes weaker, the chemicals released by the injury inflame the joint and start arthritic changes. Even if the lameness is only recently evident, there will be arthritis starting in the joint.

The repair that has been performed on your pet is a relatively new technique called the Tibial Tuberosity Advancement or TTA. This surgery changes the dynamics of the joint so that the ACL ligament is no longer needed to keep the joint steady. There are other techniques available for the repair of this injury but this technique has unique advantages in stabilizing the joint and preventing much of the arthritis that may develop after the use of the other techniques.

The front of the top of the tibia has been moved forward and held in its new position with titanium implants. In moving the front of the tibia, the point of attachment of the patellar ligament is moved forward and that changes the stresses on the joint and allows it to remain stable during weight bearing. These implants are designed to remain in place permanently.

During the next several weeks while healing occurs, we want your pet to be controlled by using a **leash when outside. During the first 6 weeks, no stairs and no jumping up on furniture. The opening we have created in the bone will take 6**

to 8 weeks to heal completely and we want to be careful until that time. If your pet is overactive during this time, the fixation may fail and require additional surgery to repair. Use the accompanying instructions on physical therapy to guide your care of your pet.

Call if questions arise. We are here to see your pet for any needed aftercare that your regular veterinarian prefers not to undertake.

1. Staples can be removed here or at your regular veterinarian's office in 10-14 days.
2. Restrict activity to leash only when outside for 10 minute periods.
3. No running, stairs or jumping on furniture for the next 6 weeks.
4. Feed a normal diet.
5. Check the incision daily for inflammation or discharge. Call if it is a problem.
6. Please make an appointment for a 3 week re-examination.
7. Do not allow your pet to lick or chew at the incision because this can cause infection. An e-collar may be needed.

Thank you for choosing Brookville Road Animal Hospital

G.T. Lee, DVM