

CONSIDERATIONS FOR TPLO SURGERY & POSTOPERATIVE CARE

The following information will assist you in preparing for the TPLO surgical procedure. Our goal is to give you and your pet the best possible experience and care during their stay at VSCT and to ensure that s/he will have an optimal outcome at home. The following information will better prepare you for what is involved.

PRE-SURGICAL ADMISSION PROCESS

Your pet is scheduled for a TPLO surgery on _____.

1. Please **do not feed your pet after 10pm the night before surgery**. Water is allowed.
2. Please arrive at the Veterinary Specialty Center of Tucson to admit your pet for the TPLO surgery between 7:30am and 8:00am, unless otherwise instructed.
3. If your pet is currently on medications, you will be asked on the admission paperwork to write down the type, the dose, and last time given. If there are pain medications and/or antibiotics being used, please make note of the quantity you have remaining at home so we do not dispense medications you already have. If your pet is on a special diet, please bring a small amount (1-2 meals) with them for their hospitalization.
4. Upon admitting your pet to the hospital, we ask that you remove and take with you all personal leashes and collars as these will be removed for the surgical procedure. We will place a color-coded pet ID collar on your pet for their hospitalization stay.
5. You may bring a toy, T-shirt, or small blanket that smells like home to leave with your pet during the hospitalization stay. However, please realize that these items may become soiled and end up in the hospital laundry and so may be difficult to find and return to you upon discharge.
6. We do have hospital visiting hours for patients/pets. However, because dogs having TPLO surgery are only hospitalized for one night, we usually discourage visiting the day of surgery since it often upsets your pet to see you leave and this can make it difficult for them to remain calm in the hours immediately post-op. There are doctors and nurses in the hospital directly caring for your pet 24 hours a day, so they are never left alone. You may feel free to call anytime to get a brief progress report on their condition. Our hospital policy is to contact you if anything changes in their condition, unless we are instructed by you otherwise. The technician admitting your pet will verify your contact numbers for accuracy and make note of the best number to reach you at on that day. The surgeon will call you after the surgical procedure is over to give you an update on how everything went and how your pet is recovering.
7. Because we are a 24/7 hospital, we are continuously working in emergency surgeries throughout the day. We schedule the surgical procedures according to severity with the most critical patients going first. We ask that you admit your pet early on their surgical day so they will be ready to have their procedure at any time, but please realize that not every pet gets to "go first" and the more

stable, healthy pets having elective procedures like a TPLO sometimes will go later in the day. Rest assured that the surgeon will call you after your pet is safely out of surgery and in recovery to give you an update on their condition. You may call us at 520-795-9955 any time to check on your pet's status.

POST-SURGICAL HOME CARE CONSIDERATIONS

Our goal is for you and your pet to have a safe, uneventful recovery from the procedure. Here are some considerations/guidelines to help you ensure the best possible outcome during the healing period at home:

- Upon discharge from the hospital, the technician will review in person with you the written home care instructions that you will receive.
- The total recovery period (until full activity is resumed) is approximately 16 weeks: 8 surgical recovery and 8 weaning into full activity.
- You will be given rehabilitation guidelines at discharge post-surgery, at the suture removal visit (2 weeks post-op), and again at your 8 week recheck visit for radiographs (x-rays).
- **JUMPING, STAIRS, DOGGIE DOORS, DOG PARKS, ROUGH-HOUSING, AND OFF-LEASH OUTDOORS ARE NOT PERMISSABLE IN THE RECOVERY PERIOD UNLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED.**
- An Elizabethan collar ("E-Collar") is generally recommended until the skin staples/sutures are removed to prevent your pet from licking/chewing at the incision.
- If your pet is extremely active, you may have to crate them or confine them to a small room or other area when you are away from the house or at night when sleeping. In some cases the surgeon may recommend medication to help calm them down to make it easier to follow the activity restriction guidelines.
- If you have tile floors, placing non-skid runners or the foam floor tiles in these areas to reduce slipping is advisable.
- If your pet gets over-excited at the doorbell, place a note on the door explaining that your pet is recovering from surgery and to please call and announce their arrival or for deliveries to be left without ringing the bell.
- If you have any questions or concerns prior to or following the surgery-please feel free to call us at 520-795-9955.