TIBIAL PLATEAU LEVELLING OSTEOTOMY (TPLO)

Our chosen surgical method for the repair of cruciate disease.

AVAILABLE AT OUR MEOPHAM HOSPITAL

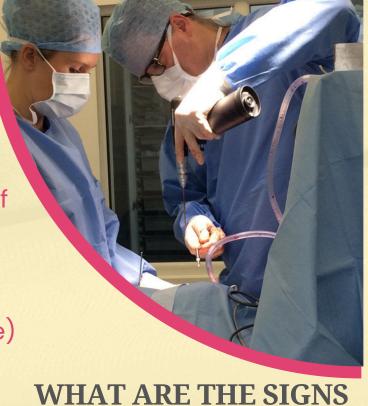
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WHAT IS CRUCIATE LIGAMENT DISEASE?

The cranial cruciate ligament (CCL) is a band of tough fibrous tissue that attaches the front of the femur (thigh bone) to the back of the tibia (shin bone) It prevents the femur moving backward & helps prevent over-rotation (inward) of the knee joint. In most cases disease is caused by slow degeneration or fraying of the ligament (similar to fraying of a rope) If the dog develops it in one knee then there is unfortunately a 50% chance it will also develop in the other knee.



WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF CCL DISEASE?

Limping (lameness) is the most common sign. It may appear suddenly, have a slow progression or be intermittent in other cases. Affected dogs may also sit with their leg out to the side.



Which breeds are at risk?

Whilst any dog breed can be affected, we most commonly see CCL disease in:

- Labradors
- Rottweilers
- Boxers
- West Highland
 White Terriers
- Newfoundlands

Diagnosis & treatment

Diagnosis is based on clinical examination and radiographs of the affected knee.

At The Meopham Veterinary Hospital we perform a TPLO procedure.

This surgery involves a semi-circular cut in the top of the tibia, the segment is then rotated to change the slope of the top of the tibia. This prevents the femur 'sliding' off the back of the tibia. The bone is then fixed in place with a plate and screws in the new position.

The advantages of TPLO over other techniques is that there is a quicker recovery in the short-term and better outcome in the long-term.

AFTER TPLO = 90% OF DOGS WILL RETURN TO NORMAL ACTIVITY

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MEOPHAM VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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