



**PET UNIVERSE**  
VETERINARY CENTRE

2025



## Tibial Plateau Levelling Osteotomy

PET UNIVERSE PATIENT EDUCATION SERIES

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## Pet Universe Standards of Care

We pride ourselves on providing the very highest standards of general anaesthetic and surgical care. Because we know your pet is the most important pet in the world to you, we treat your pet like our own and they will receive similar care to what you would expect when you have anaesthesia.

### Healthcare From Your Pet's Point of View During Anaesthesia Includes:

- Pre-anaesthetic blood test to check for any underlying risk factors prior to surgery
- Pre-medication which includes a sedative to help your pet relax and reduce the amount of anaesthetic required
- 3 types of pain relieving medications, given before, during and after the procedure to provide a high level of pain relief
- Intravenous fluids to maintain hydration and blood pressure, ensuring blood supply to vital organs and to help avoid the drowsiness often felt after an anaesthetic
- Advanced warming techniques, before, during and after your pet's procedure to ensure optimal body temperature is maintained
- For maximum safety your pet is maintained on isoflurane anaesthetic machines
- Human grade anaesthetic monitoring machines ensure the safest procedure so any slight changes in the status of your pet's anaesthetic will be detected and treated immediately to minimize chances of a serious situation developing
- Dedicated surgical nurses for your pet's entire surgery and recovery
- Heart Rate monitoring and Pulse Oximetry (pulse strength and blood oxygen levels)
- Respiratory Rate monitoring and Capnography (concentration of gases breathed in and out)
- Blood Pressure monitoring - state of the art equipment calibrated for dogs and cats and ECG as needed
- Advanced in-house anaesthetic training for nurses



## How We Perform TPLOs

TPLO (Tibial Plateau Levelling Osteotomy) is an advanced procedure performed to correct the effects of damage to the cranial cruciate ligament (CCL). The CCL is located inside the knee, joining the femur to the tibia & is responsible for providing most of the stability to the joint when the dog puts weight on the leg. If there is a partial or full tear of the CCL, the knee becomes unstable & extra movement inside the joint can cause damage to the joint surfaces, pain & swelling. Left untreated, this leads to severe arthritis & ongoing pain.

TPLO surgery is designed to stabilise the knee by making a biomechanical adjustment to the angles within the knee joint. This provides a more stable platform for the femur to bear weight & reduces the need for the cranial cruciate ligament. This is achieved by making a precise, curved cut in the tibia, then rotating the top section of the bone to a new, more stable position. The adjustment to the tibia is carefully planned using pre-op x-rays of the knee. A metal plate & screws then secure the bone segment in its new position. This creates a stable joint going forward, reducing the risk of further joint injury & allowing the dog to return to pain free activity.

The recovery period is a crucial for success. Your pet will be on high-dose pain relief & restricting exercise during the first 2 weeks of recovery is necessary for the healing process, then you can slowly increase their movement over the next 6 weeks. Regular post-op appointments are necessary for the first 2 weeks post, then revisits will occur at the 4 & 8 week mark. Our rehabilitation centre can help get the best out of your pet's recovery, creating a tailored program for each stage of recovery to help your pet get the best possible result.



## Pre-anaesthetic information

Your pet has been booked in for a procedure. We hope this information will cover any questions/concerns that you may have.

### Preparing for the anaesthetic

For Cats/Dogs: Please do not feed your pet after 8pm the night before as food in the stomach during anaesthesia can reflux and cause painful oesophagitis or even aspiration pneumonia which can be life-threatening. You can let your pet have access to water through the night but remove the water when you wake in the morning.

**For Rabbits: Please ensure your pet has access to food and water at all times. Please bring his favourite food with you on the day of his procedure.**

### The day of the procedure

We normally ask for you to arrive at the clinic between 8:00-8:30am (unless we have organised something different). On arrival you will be asked to take a seat and your pet's dedicated surgical nurse will come to admit your pet for the day. During admission, the surgical nurse will arrange a 10minute discharge appointment where you will be advised of any medications and the aftercare that your pet will need.

To reduce waiting times, admission appointments with your pet's dedicated surgical nurse can be made from 8.30 am. Appointments are great if you have questions or if you have special requirements such as when you are/are not contactable during the day.

If drop off is required and you are in a rush to get to work, then your consent forms can be pre-signed when booking the procedure or the day before so you can arrive from 8 am, check the form and drop your pet off.

### What happens after you leave your pet with us?

Once your pet has been admitted we get your pet settled into one of our kennels with a comfy bed. We know this can be an anxious time for you, but rest assured that we will treat your pet as if he was our own. We place an intravenous catheter (i.v. line) into the front leg (you will see a small clipped area on the leg) and a blood sample is taken to test for organ function and blood count. Providing all is ok with the blood tests (we will contact you to discuss the results if there are any issues) we will go ahead and pre-med your pet (pre-meds are a light sedation and pain relief which help relax Levi before his procedure). We will then proceed with the anaesthetic and procedure.

Once the procedure has been completed your pet's dedicated surgical vet will call you with an update and confirm his discharge time.

### After the procedure

To ensure that your pet has recovered well and is pain free we routinely do a post-operative assessment 1-3 days after surgery. This is a complimentary appointment but should any additional materials or medication be required you will still only be charged for the materials or medication. Any appointments after this time period will incur a consultation fee.



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING RESUSCITATION

As outlined in our Standards of Care Value Sheet, we pride ourselves on providing the very highest standards of general anaesthetic and surgical care. However, even with these measures in place, there is always a risk involved with every anaesthetic.

In the case that your pet were to suffer cardiac and/or pulmonary arrest (heart or breathing stops), we need to know if you authorise us to provide life-saving measures (i.e. cardiopulmonary cerebral resuscitation or "CPCR").

CPCR can include endotracheal intubation (placement of a breathing tube), administration of drugs, cardiac compressions (pushing on the chest) and assisted breathing with oxygen supplementation.

The cost of these services is generally NOT reflected in your estimate. If you choose to allow these procedures for your pet, you will be contacted as soon as possible to be informed of the situation and given the options about how to proceed.

In a critically ill patient, you may want to elect a do not resuscitate status or a "DNR". In a healthy pet undergoing an elective procedure, we would strongly recommend you allow full resuscitation.

On admission of your pet for his surgical procedure the nurse or vet will ask if you authorise us to provide life-savings measures. You will be asked to initial your selection, followed by the printing of your name and signature. Please allow time for this and the completion of the consent form upon admission.

If you have any questions regarding CPCR, please don't hesitate to contact one of the members of our team, or feel free to discuss your concerns at the time of admission.