

Visual symptoms commonly seen in patients with ACL injuries.



Positive Sit Test

Patient sits with hindlimbs kicked out to the side due to discomfort during knee flexion



Toe-Touching Lameness

Patient bears a limited amount of weight on the affected limb

What is the Cruciate Ligament?

Pets, just like people, have Cruciate ligaments in their knees. There are two Cruciate ligaments in each knee, the Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) and the Posterior Cruciate Ligament (PCL). The most commonly injured is the ACL (approx. 99% of cases). The ACL stabilizes the knee in a Front-to-Back direction, preventing the lower leg bone, the Tibia, from thrusting forward in relation to the upper leg bone, the Femur.



Packerland Veterinary Center also offers accelerated rehabilitation programs. We have the ability to use an Underwater Treadmill starting as early as two weeks after surgery, which drastically shortens recovery time.

For more Information or to Schedule a Consultation, please call: (920) 498-2808 or 800-236-2808.

www.packerlandvet.com



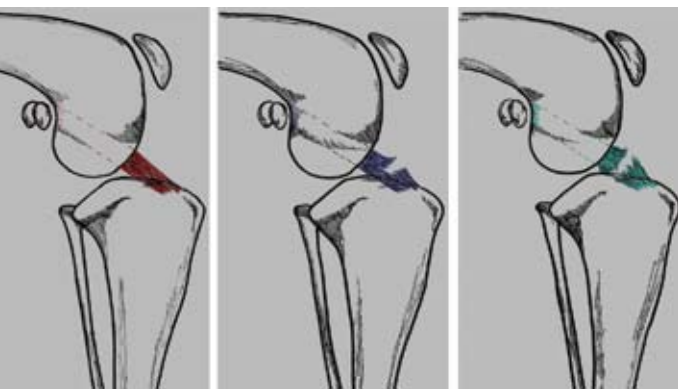
CRUCIATE LIGAMENT INJURIES



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Intact ACL

Partial Tear

Fully Torn

The ACL is made up of many individual fibers banded together like a rope. Due to a slope on the upper portion of the Tibia, the ACL is under constant tension with each step the pet takes.



Measurement of the Tibial slope from a pre-op radiograph

This contributes to repetitive strain and eventual tearing of the fibers that make up the ACL. Often, pets will only tear a few fibers at a time, resulting in a partial ACL tear, which may eventually reach the point of a complete tear. Even a partial ACL tear allows for enough instability that joint inflammation (arthritis) can begin to develop in the joint and cause the pet significant discomfort. Patients can also have secondary damage to the meniscal cartilage that lies in between the Tibia and Femur because of the instability from an ACL tear.

Surgery is performed in pets with ACL injuries in an attempt to prevent further damage and prevent/slow the progression of arthritis. There are two types of surgeries offered at Packerland Veterinary Center. The choice between these two separate procedures depends upon: the size of the patient, the results/outcome desired, cost and the after-care/rehabilitation requirements.



Option 1: Extra-Articular

One procedure is called an Extra-articular procedure, where we loop two strands of a heavy, synthetic material around the outside of the joint. This material mimics the same action and direction of the original ligament and stabilizes the front-to-back instability. This procedure works better in smaller to medium-sized and non-athletic pets.

Option 2: T.P.L.O.

The other procedure we offer is the revolutionary Tibial Plateau Leveling Osteotomy (T.P.L.O.) surgery. This novel approach to ACL injuries addresses the phenomenon of the slope of the Tibia.



Post-operative radiographs of a T.P.L.O. procedure

With the T.P.L.O. procedure a special rounded (biradial) cut is made in the upper Tibia. The portion of "cut" bone is then rotated to correct the slope, and is held in place with a stainless steel bone plate and screws. The T.P.L.O. procedure eliminates the thrusting of the Tibia forward as the patient walks, eliminating joint instability during movement.



A specially designed bone plate is contoured to the patients bone conformation.

The surgery that would be best for your pet is dependent on several factors. One factor is the size of your pet. The Extra-articular procedure has good results in small and medium breed pets, but the T.P.L.O. provides much better results in larger and/or athletic pets. Additionally there are rehabilitation and monetary concerns which affect the decision.