

Veterinary Medicine Teaching Hospital

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Small Animal Orthopedic Surgery

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Tibial Plateau Leveling Osteotomy

The Tibial Plateau Leveling Osteotomy or TPLO is a surgical procedure designed to change the confirmation of the knee to prevent or eliminate the strain on the cruciate ligament itself. In a normal walking motion, the knee is stable. The surgery involves making a circular cut in top of the tibia and rotating the resulting fragment to make the bottom surface of the knee joint flat and eliminate forces. A bone plate is then secured to the tibia to hold it in place while the bone is healing. It typically takes 6-12 weeks for the bone to heal completely and restrictions are placed on activity during that entire time. Failure to follow post-operative instructions can lead to a fracture of the bone and other serious complications. This procedure is typically recommended for dogs >40 pounds or dogs that need to return to an active or working lifestyle.