

If you have concerns, please refer to your discharge instructions for guidance.

Otherwise here are some FAQ's and answers:

Q. My pet has not had a bowel movement since being home.

A. It may take a few days for your pet to have a bowel movement, between being fasted and anesthesia slowing down the GI tract, it is not uncommon. Tramadol can also cause some constipation so if your pet seems to be struggling – discontinue the Tramadol and give it some more time. If your pet seems lethargic or goes several days without a bowel movement, we recommend going to your nearest emergency hospital.

Q. My pet is not putting weight on surgery leg / My pet seems to be using leg too much.

A. We expect your pet will have a limp of some degree for the first few months after surgery. If your pet is using the leg too much, they may limp for a longer period of time or seem more uncomfortable. You can always go back to strict rest/confinement and pain medications as needed. Please avoid excessive use, jumping, and running for the first few months after surgery.

Q. I think my pet may have an infection; how do I know?

A. It is rare we see infections in our surgical repairs. We use a single dose of antibiotics at the time of surgery and don't expect to use any more antibiotics unless there is a problem. Problems are almost always related to the dog licking at the incision. It is imperative you keep the e-collar ("cone of shame") on at **ALL** times unless directly watching your pet. You can attach the e-collar to your dog's buckle collar to help keep it in place: left image. This is what can happen if you do not use the e-collar: right image.

You can also take your pet's temperature, rectally, to make sure it is in a normal range between 99.5-103.2 degrees Fahrenheit. If your pet's temperature is **over 103.2 F**, they are lethargic/depressed, have stopped eating after initially doing well after surgery, or there is purulent discharge from the incision- we recommend going to your nearest emergency hospital if our staff is not available.



Q. My pets leg looks really red or bruised.

A. Swelling and bruising is expected to happen after many orthopedic surgeries. Bruising can be many colors from very red, to a dark purple. We expect any bruising to get worse for the first few days, then gradually improve. For the first few days after surgery cold packing the leg for 15-20 minutes several times a day will help decrease the bruising and help the swelling go down. See image of post op bruising



Q. My pets leg looks really swollen by the ankle and/or leaking clear serum.

A. Swelling from the knee to the ankle (dependent edema) is common after TPLO surgery with disruption of the lymphatics. There can even be lymph serum that leaks through the skin. The lymphatics will re-establish within 5-7 days and this swelling will quickly disappear. You can help the swelling go down by using alternating hot and cold packing. Typically, 10-15 minutes hot and 15-20 minutes cold packing several times a day. Gentle massage of the area will also help.

