



Chad Aderhold, DVM Animal Hospital of Lewisville

Dr. Aderhold is a 1990 graduate of the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine. Though a native of Georgia, he has practiced veterinary medicine in North Carolina

since graduating. Dr. Aderhold's passion in the veterinary field is orthopedic surgery. He performs an average of 20 TTA procedures a month with a less than 1% complication rate. He has performed more than 1,000 surgeries both in our clinics, and other clinics throughout North Carolina and Eastern Tennessee. When not working, he enjoys spending time with his wife, two sons, three dogs and a cat. In his spare time, he also enjoys playing golf and riding his five horses.

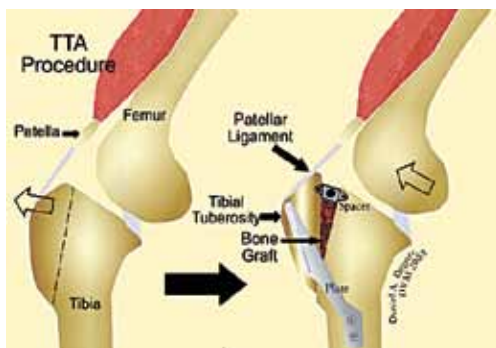
Repairing CCL Tears with Tibial Tuberosity Advancement (TTA)

*A **Cranial Cruciate Ligament (CCL)** rupture or tear, which is also referred to as an **Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL)**, is one of the most frequent causes of hind limb lameness in dogs, and sometimes cats as well. The ligament connects the bone above the knee (the femur) with the bone below the knee (the tibia). Essentially, the CCL works to stabilize the knee (or stifle).*

A CCL tear can be partially or fully torn. A partially torn ligament will undoubtedly result in a complete rupture. A complete rupture causes painful instability of the knee, resulting in the tibia freely shifting forward in a "drawer like motion." If there is only a partial tear, then there may only be a slight delay in the joint shifting forward, which may be difficult to determine if the pet is not sedated.

Due to the placement of the ligament you can almost immediately notice if your pet has torn its CCL. Limping,

discomfort, toe touching, and trouble with mobility are some of the signs you may notice after this injury occurs. These injuries are



common and require surgery to repair. Rehabilitation alone is not sufficient to correct this injury. If left untreated, CCL tears will cause instability, pain in the joints, and may lead to arthritis in the future. Repairing the injury soon after, will prevent the animal from shifting weight onto the other leg and possibly creating another tear or rupture.

There are many contributing factors that may lead to a torn CCL, such as patellar luxation, obesity, immune disease, old age, and most commonly high activity. Animals that have ruptured one CCL are also more inclined to rupture the opposite side in one to three years, and immune system related diseases may weaken and eventually lead to complete failure of one or both CCLs.

Recent studies have also identified specific breeds that appear to be more predisposed to ACL or CCL injuries such as the Mastiff, Newfoundland, Akita, St. Bernard, Rottweiler, Chesapeake Bay Retriever, American Staffordshire Terrier, and Labrador Retriever.

This injury can be repaired with minimal invasion in smaller pets, such as cats and dogs weighing less than 35 pounds, with a procedure called Lateral Fabellar Suture. Surgery becomes a bit more extensive with larger pets weighing 35 pounds or more. We recommend an advanced procedure referred to as a TTA (Tibial Tuberosity Advancement) surgery. This procedure is less invasive and uses implants to correct the injury. We believe it is the better option that results in a quicker recovery time and fewer complications than other procedures such as the TPLO (Tibial Plateau Leveling Osteotomy) in which the tibia (the weight bearing part of the knee joint) is surgically cut and altered. With the TTA, the procedure is performed on a non-weight bearing part of the knee joint, giving dogs a greater ease in healing, recovery, and overall success of the procedure.

Here at The Animal Hospital of Lewisville, we believe that the TTA procedure is the best way to correct a torn CCL, offering an affordable, reliable and life long fix to CCL injury. Please contact our office with any questions, concerns, or to discuss your pet's future health and wellness.



**THE ANIMAL HOSPITAL
OF LEWISVILLE**

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