

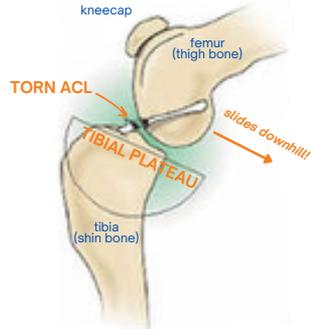
Extracapsular ACL Repair

Let's start with some knee anatomy...

The **tibial plateau** is the contact point between the femur (thigh bone) and tibia (shin bone). It slopes downhill toward your dog's tail.

A normal ACL keeps the femur from sliding downhill.

When the ACL tears, every step hurts because the femur is sliding downhill on the tibia. Even a partial tear of the ACL can be very painful.



What can I do to help my pet?

A torn ACL cannot be sutured back together, and it never heals on its own.

Pain medication, rest, & knee braces may mask discomfort temporarily, but they are not a good long-term solution.

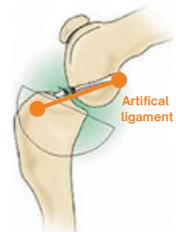
Surgery is the best way to get your dog back to running, playing, and enjoying life. While there are several ways to repair a torn ACL, because of your pet's body weight, lifestyle, or activity level, your veterinarian is recommending an Extracapsular ACL Repair.

How does Extracapsular ACL Repair work?

Extracapsular ACL Repair involves placing an artificial ligament outside the joint, anchored to bony structures on the femur & tibia. This artificial ligament serves the same function that the ACL did, preventing the femur from sliding downhill on the tibial plateau.

During the first 8 weeks of healing, with adequate exercise restriction, the body lays down scar tissue along the artificial ligament, adding extra strength to the repair.

With daily wear & tear, the artificial ligament may stretch or break over time, however in most cases, there is enough scar tissue around it to stabilize the knee. If you have concerns about the sturdiness of this repair, you may want to consider a TPLO for your pet instead.



What does recovery look like?

50% of patients will put some weight on the leg within 24-48 hours.

By 8 weeks, most pets walk with only a mild limp.

It will take a full 4-6 months to get back to “normal”, but even then, there can be the occasional “off” day.

Won't my pet be in pain?

Any major orthopedic surgery causes some short-term discomfort. We use a multi-faceted approach to keep your pet as comfortable as possible.

Injections of strong intravenous pain medication are given before, during, and after surgery.

Right before the end of surgery, a series of numbing injections is given that partially numbs the surgery site for 72 hours.

A combination of oral pain medications will be sent home as well.

Exercise restriction is VERY important for the first 8 weeks

No running, jumping, or playing for 8 weeks after surgery. Sedatives will be sent home with your pet to help keep them quiet once they're feeling better.

If your pet is too active before the surgery site has healed, it can cause the implants to loosen and will result in a second surgery. This means extra expense for you and extra pain for your pet.

Your pet cannot use the stairs or jump on & off furniture for the first 8 weeks. It can be very helpful to confine your pet to an oversized crate when they are not under your direct supervision.

It's a good idea to prepare yourself and your home environment **before** surgery - visit the ocmobilesurgery.com **FAQs** for hints and tips.

Recheck Schedule

Sutures are removed after 2 weeks.

After 8 weeks, your veterinarian will perform an orthopedic exam to make sure none of the implants have failed due to excessive activity.

If everything looks good, you will be given a plan to gradually return your pet to full exercise over the following 4 weeks.

Remember that full recovery may take as long as 6 months, but the first 8 weeks are the most critical.



Visit ocmobilesurgery.com for more info!