

Hip Dysplasia

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What is a hip dysplasia?

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How is hip dysplasia diagnosed?

Early hip dysplasia (HD) is seen as an increased laxity (looseness) of the hip joint. The late form of HD is characterized by degenerative joint disease (arthritis). Early signs can be diagnosed before 6 months of age, while the late stage is often apparent as soon as 1 year of age.

What if my dog has hip dysplasia?

Many animals have HD but are not demonstrating clinical signs of pain or limping. In many dogs without clinical signs, medical or surgical treatment may not be necessary. However, it is important to diagnose hip dysplasia while in its early form as surgery can correct the problem and prevent or lessen future arthritis.

What is a triple pelvic osteotomy?

Triple pelvic osteotomy (TPO) is a surgery performed in moderate to large breed dogs with early HD, with the goal of eliminating the laxity of early HD, thus preventing the development of potentially debilitating late HD. A TPO involves cutting the pelvis in 3 places in order to rotate the socket portion of the joint; the effect of surgery is to provide better coverage of the ball portion of the hip joint, which eliminates joint laxity. Most dogs undergoing this procedure are close to 6 months of age, as arthritis is typically apparent by 1 year of age if not earlier. Once arthritis is apparent

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on radiographs, a TPO can no longer be performed.

What is the recovery like after the procedure?

Dogs will spend roughly 3 nights in the hospital following surgery. Strict rest is required at home for an additional 8 weeks and radiographs are required every 3-4 weeks to document healing of the surgery site.

Is my puppy a candidate for a TPO?

Candidates are dogs over 30 pounds, over 5 months of age and rarely over 1 year of age. If hip looseness is seen on radiographs without evidence of arthritis, the TPO is usually a very good option. A sedated examination is required in addition to the radiographs in order to evaluate the degree of looseness and to determine the degree of correction that would be required with surgery.



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