West Lakeland Veterinary Group

Teddy is a 5 year old, Pomeranian who suffers from diabetes.

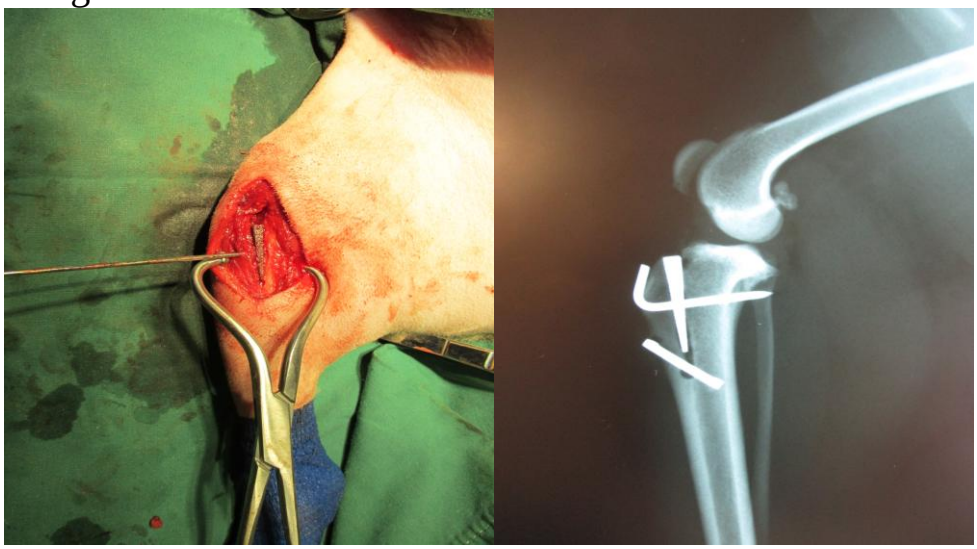
Teddy was brought to the surgery suffering from lameness in his hind left leg. He was initially prescribed treatment of an anti-inflammatory medication; however this did not seem to be helping.
On re-examination he was struggling to stand on either of his hind legs and his owners naturally feared the worst.

Teddy was admitted for investigation: X-rays and examination of his hind legs revealed that the anterior cruciate ligaments in both his stifle joints (knee joint) had ruptured, rendering his hind limb mobility severely compromised.

The stifle joint (the knee joint) joins the femur (thigh bone) to the tibia and fibula (lower leg bones). The cruciate ligaments are 2 bands of fibrous tissue (anterior and posterior) that connect the two bones together, whose main function is to stabilise the knee joint. Although both of these ligaments can be damaged, injury more commonly occurs to the anterior cruciate (ACL)

Damage to the ligaments can occur as a result of a traumatic injury or a gradual degeneration and weakening of the ACL. This is a fairly common problem in many dogs however Teddy was extremely unlucky to have both ligaments degenerate and rupture at the same time.

Teddy required surgery on both of his stifle joints. There are many surgical procedures described for cruciate disease in dogs however our preferred method is the Tibial Tuberosity Advancement (TTA). This is a surgical technique that if successful allows the knee to function without a cruciate ligament by altering the dynamics of the joint. The surgery involves cutting the tibia and the placement of a titanium foam wedge.



Intra-operative and x-ray view showing the titanium foam wedge in place

A major advantage of this surgery is a very fast recovery time which was vital in Teddy's case.

Teddy's surgery went to plan however only time would tell whether he would be able to use his legs again.

Hospitalisation overnight was required to keep him isolated, pain free and to monitor his diabetes.

Teddy standing unaided 12 hours postop

The following morning Teddy was standing and walking unassisted and was allowed to go home, much to his and his owner's delight. Teddy had strict aftercare instructions, cage rest and short, gentle lead exercise only until further notice.

One month on, Teddy is doing well, walking on both legs and back to his usual self. Return to normal exercise would hope to be achieved in 6-8 weeks.

If you have any concerns that your own dog may be suffering from cruciate disease please contact the surgery and make an appointment