Recovery

* Your pet has just had a major surgery. Keep a watchful eye and know that a little bleeding and lethargy is normal.
* Because of the anesthesia, your pet may become lethargic or restless, shaky, disoriented, lose appetite or vomit within the first 24 hours. Do not be alarmed, these are the side effects of the medication. Keep your pet warm and reassure them that they are fine.
* Your pet will need to wear an e-collar for the first 2 weeks to prevent chewing the bandage and licking the wound. Either of these events can result in skin damage, infections, and other adverse effects. It is important to keep the e-collar on even after bandage removal as the skin will feel itchy and they can cause harm to themselves by licking and chewing.
* If at any time your pet has difficulty breathing, or their gums becomes pale or blue, contact an emergency veterinarian immediately!

Food + Water

* Your pet may have a reduced appetite or be nauseous due to the anesthesia. Feed a half-sized meal tonight and resume normal diet tomorrow. If inappetence or nausea persist, feed a diet of boiled chicken and rice until back to normal.
* Water can be offered to you pet as soon as you get home, though they have received plenty of IV fluids during surgery so may not be thirsty right away.
* Your pet may not defecate for the first day or two following surgery. This is due to the fasting the day of surgery, and the anesthesia medications. However, constipation can also occur in the first few days after surgery. If you feel your pet is constipated, add 1-2 tablespoons of canned pumpkin to meals until normal bowel movements resumed. If no defecation after 4 days, please contact a veterinarian.

Medications

* Your pet was given a long acting local pain medication today. This will keep the entire surgical area numb for up to 72 hours.
* Your pet was also given a long acting antibiotic today. This will last in your pet’s system for 7-10 days.
* Your pet is going home with medications for pain and inflammation. The instructions can be found on the bottle. Please begin all medications tonight with a light meal.
* If requested, we have provided medication to keep your pet calm. Each animal responds to sedative medication differently, so you may need to adjust the dose accordingly. The recommended dose on the bottle may need to be increased or decreased slightly to obtain appropriate level of calmness. But don’t worry, it is a very safe medication, so overdosing is very unlikely and if your pet seems too sedate, they should rest and improve within 12 hours.
* Your pet is also going home with dietary supplements. These will help to decrease the healing time and reduce the amount of stronger medications needed. It is recommended that you continuous these medications for at least 8 weeks after surgery.

Follow-up

* Your pets bandage will need to be removed in 5-7 days. If different, the doctor will notify you directly.
* Your pet will have 3 virtual rechecks (unless notified differently). The first will be after 1 week, the second after 3 weeks, and the third after 6 weeks. Details for the virtual rechecks are provided on the website. A follow up reminder will be sent for each recheck, and costs are included in the surgical fee.
* If at anytime you are unhappy with your pet’s recovery process, do not hesitate to contact us! Many times, it is a simple reassurance that everything is on tract, but we also want to catch all potential complications as soon as possible.

Activity

* Detailed instructions for your pet’s activity and post-surgical recovery can be found on the back of this sheet and on our website. Please read these recommendations carefully, and if you hesitate to perform these actions on your own please consider professional physical therapy.
* Although your pets may have fuzzy friends at home, it is better to keep other pets separate the night of surgery to avoid complications with recovery.

TPLO- Tibial plateau leveling osteotomy

Day 1-3

Week 1:

Week 2:

Week 3:

Week 4:

Week 5:

Week 6: