PET OWNER RESOURCE

TPLO recovery overview

Recovery is a progression, not a race. Your surgeon and primary veterinarian will adjust the plan to your dog's examination, radiographs, comfort, and healing.

KVS

BOARD-CERTIFIED ADVANCED SPECIALTY SURGERY

Early recovery priorities

- Give medications exactly as prescribed and contact the veterinary team before making changes.
- Use controlled leash walks only for bathroom needs unless your discharge plan says otherwise.
- Prevent running, jumping, stairs, rough play, and slippery-floor falls.
- Use the e-collar or other protection as directed so the incision cannot be licked or chewed.
- Check the incision daily and report drainage, gapping, marked swelling, worsening redness, or increasing pain.

Progressive activity

- Activity is typically increased in stages after veterinary reassessment; timing varies by patient.
- Rehabilitation exercises should match the written plan. More activity is not always better.
- Keep your dog lean during recovery and use rugs or runners for traction where needed.
- Follow scheduled rechecks and obtain postoperative radiographs when recommended before unrestricted activity.

Call the veterinary team if

- Lameness suddenly worsens, your dog stops using the limb after prior improvement, or a fall occurs.
- Appetite, energy, urination, bowel movements, or comfort change in a concerning way.
- Medication side effects are suspected, including vomiting, diarrhea, dark stool, marked sedation, or agitation.

This overview does not replace the discharge instructions for your dog. The case-specific plan from your veterinary team always controls.