

Pre-Operative Information: Hip Toggle

Price: £2,950 (including VAT, March 2024)

Coxofemoral or hip luxation is the most commonly luxated joint in dogs, accounting for 90% of all luxations. It is usually the result of trauma or severe hip dysplasia. The main joint stabilisers (the joint capsule and the ligament of the head of the femur also known as the round ligament) are torn, allowing the head of the femur (thigh bone) to come out of its socket in the pelvis (hip bone).

Manually replacing a cranio-dorsal hip luxation under general anaesthesia (also known as 'closed' reduction) is often attempted as a first line treatment for uncomplicated luxations. A non-weight bearing sling (Ehmer sling or figure of eight bandage) is typically applied to the hindlimb to maintain reduction for 7-14 days while scar tissue forms around the joint to hold it in place. Sadly, during or shortly after this period the hip often re-luxates. If this is the case surgery is recommended.

The two most commonly used surgeries for managing hip luxation are:

1. Hip Toggle
2. Femoral Head and Neck Excision (FHNE)



Hip Toggle stabilisation is considered a better alternative for hip luxation in small dogs compared to FHNE. Hip Toggle is an 'open' reduction technique. Open reduction allows exploration of the joint, removal of haematoma (blood clot) and soft tissues entrapped within the acetabulum (hip socket), and application of internal stabilisation such as a pin and toggle. The success rate after open reduction and stabilisation is around 85%, significantly greater than after closed reduction.

The hip toggle procedure involves passing a small metal rod, attached to braided high tensile nylon, through a drilled bone tunnel in the femur, femoral neck, femoral head and acetabulum (socket in the pelvis). The nylon is then tensioned against metal button on the trochanter of the femur, which holds the joint securely.

It is worth noting that osteoarthritis of the hip joint progresses in 55% to 62% of patients after open and closed reduction following coxofemoral luxation and was more pronounced in heavier dogs.

FHNE (surgical removal of the femoral head and neck) is indicated for the treatment of recurrent hip luxation, concurrent severe fractures of the acetabulum or femoral head and neck, and coxofemoral osteoarthritis. Femoral head and neck excision should be considered if closed and open techniques are unsuccessful, if severe femoral head damage is present and total hip replacement is not an option for the patient or client, or if the client wishes to avoid the possibility of re-luxation and additional surgery. FHNE is also considered a primary treatment option for hip luxation in cats because the procedure typically leads to full return of function.

For more information or to discuss this surgery in more detail with one of our veterinary surgeons please contact us at the practice on 015394 88555 or visit the referrals section of our website at www.oakhillvetgroup.co.uk

What is included?

At Oakhill Vets we strive to ensure our orthopaedic surgeries are 'all inclusive' and so INCLUDE the following:

- Prehabilitation consultation in our state-of-the-art Animal Rehabilitation Centre (ARC)
- Pre-anaesthetic blood screen
- Hospitalisation (up to 24 hours)
- Intravenous fluids during the anaesthetic and surgery
- General Anaesthesia / Sedation
- Surgery (including implants)
- Post-operative medication (for up to three weeks)
- 24-hour post-operative laser / cold-pack treatment / physiotherapy
- Week one post-operative rehabilitation consultation and rehabilitation plan (in the ARC)

Complications and what is not included?

Post-operative complications are not common, but are possible. While we endeavour to give you an up-front, all-inclusive estimate, when it comes to pets recovering from surgery there is unfortunately an element of unpredictability! Treatments not included because of unexpected complications include (but are not limited to):

- Recurrence of hip luxation is a possible complication of hip toggle repair
- Self-trauma by pet to surgical site
- Post-operative wound infection

Rehabilitation

We strongly advise rehabilitation in our Animal Rehabilitation Centre (ARC) following this surgery. We offer patients that have had surgery at Oakhill an amazing and heavily discounted 12-week post-operative rehabilitation package. Please see our ARC price list for details.

Payment Options

Payment is expected in full at the time of consultation or upon discharge from Oakhill Vets. If your pet is insured we would request that you pay for their treatment and claim the funds back from your insurance company. Once you have settled the cost of any treatment we can help you complete your insurance claim form(s) at no additional charge. Direct claims may be arranged with some insurance companies and are subject to a check with our referral coordinators prior to your appointment. An administration fee is chargeable each time a direct claim is carried out by our referral coordinators. If you have any concerns about payment then please contact us prior to your consultation.

Why choose Oakhill Veterinary Referrals?

Oakhill Vets is based in Windermere in the beautiful Lake District. We are happy to take referrals from clients further afield. Let our friendly, highly skilled and experienced team of Veterinary Surgeons and Registered Veterinary Nurses look after your pet while you relax and enjoy a short break in The Lakes. For more details please phone the practice and speak to one of our helpful referral coordinators on 015394 88555.