



## The British Veterinary Centre

# Surgical and Medical Procedures

## Internal Medicine

Our veterinarians have the expertise to diagnose and treat conditions your pet may develop. We routinely accept pets referred by colleagues and are happy to work with your regular veterinarian to manage your pet's illness.

## Anesthesia

The BVC uses current evidence based protocols to ensure the safest possible anesthetic should your pet need this. We place catheters to allow administration of intravenous fluids and analgesia. We monitor blood pressure, heart activity (ECG) and the blood levels of carbon dioxide and oxygen throughout the procedure. Anesthesia is always tailored to the individual pet's needs as age or disease may require special care.

## Dentistry

We perform dental scaling and polishing (prophylaxis) for dogs and cats using ultrasonic scaling technology and a high-speed polishing unit - just like your dentist. During the dental procedure we evaluate the mouth for health and offer solutions for diseased teeth and gums (gingivitis). We routinely perform dental x-rays to better diagnose and treat dental disease in your pet.

## Surgery

Apart from routine surgeries such as neutering we also perform complex procedures. Following are some examples & explanations of the more specialized surgeries we are proud to perform successfully in the Middle East.

## Cruciate Disease

Rupture of the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) is one of the most common orthopedic injuries in dogs. The cruciate ligament is inside the knee joint and rupture will cause your pet to limp. This may develop gradually or suddenly. Both knee joints may be affected and the patients will be reluctant to walk (looking like the back end is paralyzed).



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Cruciate ligament rupture is thought to be a degenerative condition. That means the ligament prematurely wears out and then breaks. Dogs as young as six to twelve months, particularly in some of the very large breeds such as Rottweilers, can be affected. While the bigger the breeds suffer most all breeds can suffer cruciate disease.

There are numerous ways of treating the condition. In small breed dogs (under 5kgs) it may be possible to let nature take its course and still have a satisfactory outcome. In large breed dogs leaving the injury untreated often results in complications with damage to other structures in the joint such as meniscal cartilage.

There are many techniques used to treat cruciate disease including nylon sutures, grafts, osteotomies (Tibial Plateau Leveling Osteotomy TPLO, Triple Tibial Osteotomy, Tibial Wedge Osteotomy, Tibial Tuberosity Advancement TTA). Some comparisons are below.

We have valuable experience to guide you through the choices to ensure the best possible outcome .

For large breed dogs we open the joint and perform a modified Tibial Tuberosity Advancement (TTA). The arthrotomy allows us to clean out remnants of the damaged ligament, check and treat cartilage injuries and to flush the joint. The TTA rearranges the forces in the joint to return function so the dog can walk (and run and play) without the ligament and without damaging the cartilages.

## Comparisons of different techniques with my comments

Nylon sutures - easy to put in (also easy to put in incorrectly), snap after a 3-4 weeks, the idea is that it holds the joint stable until the soft tissues strengthen. The nylon can be put in too tightly, can tear out or snap prematurely. Can have a risk of a late meniscal cartilage tear. Recovery tends to be slower than with TTA. The evidence at 3-6 months follow-up is that these dogs catch up and do as well as the TTA patients. Careful case selection is necessary. We can guide you if your pet is a suitable candidate.

Facial grafts (also call "Over The Top OTT") - not easy to put in. The graft replaces the damaged ligament. In our experience the functional results are not as good as other methods.



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TPLO - is an aggressive surgery with bone cut across the weight bearing axis of the leg. Failure of the osteotomy to heal would be serious; equivalent to having a broken leg that won't heal. The procedure can correct rotation of the lower part of the leg. This may be a useful surgery in the hands of surgeons able to perform several of every week. The UAE doesn't generate enough cases for us to claim expertise in this procedure.

TTA - is a much less aggressive way of achieving the same effect as TPLO. The cut in the bone is away from the weight bearing axis and therefore a safer alternative. A bone graft is placed in the cut bone site to encourage healing. Recovery is very rapid with most dogs comfortable enough to put a little weight on the leg the day after surgery.

### Myelography and Spinal Surgery

Back problems caused by ruptured discs are common in certain breeds including Dachshunds and Pekingese.

The dogs usually present unable to use their back legs. Milder cases may have wobbly back ends when they try to walk. Usually the signs come on very rapidly.

Some patients are unable to pass urine an emergency situation that must be addressed within hours. The inability to walk is caused by squeezing of the spinal cord by disc material.

#### Option A

Conservative management involving cage rest. Has about a 60% chance of success for most mild to moderate cases. Not suitable for severe cases. The recovery is slow, taking about 2 months to restore walking ability. A prolonged period in the cage with bladder expressions twice daily is needed in some cases. If surgery is attempted later in the course of the condition it may not be possible to remove the disc material.

#### Option B

Surgery to remove the disc material which is compressing the spinal cord has a success rate of 90%. Recovery is usually within a week or two. We use a minimally invasive technique usually removing bone from just one side of the spinal cord to reach the compressed area. Special imaging such as CT, myelogram or MRI is needed to indicate which site and side to operate on.



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We recommend avoiding tablet medications like non-steroidal medication and steroids before surgery as they increase the bleeding during the procedure.

### Brachycephalic Airway Surgery

Pugs and Bulldogs with difficulty breathing may have nasal openings blocked by folds of their nostrils (stenotic nares) and/or long soft palates. These problems are associated with development of a short skull.

The signs are usually noisy breathing. Some dogs may become distressed on exertion or in hot weather. The decision to do surgery on these cases is a fine judgment and we would be happy to provide advice on whether your pet is suitable.

The nose is tackled by a simple widening procedure involving removal of a small wedge of tissue and closure with two or three fine sutures that dissolve over time. There are rarely any complications. The soft palate is more complex to treat. The surgery involves cutting and suturing the palate to shorten it. The riskiest time is not during surgery, when we have full control of airways and oxygen supply, but during the recovery period when throat swelling may occur. The pet has to breathe over the newly operated site and there are a critical few hours to get through before we can relax and withdraw critical care supervision.

Our advice is to do what's needed. If the pet is unable to breathe because of a long palate then surgery with its attendant risk may be warranted. There is a short-term but usually manageable risk associated with the procedure but a long-term risk associated with doing nothing. Leaving a pet with stenotic nares and a long palate may result in collapse of the larynx and more serious breathing obstruction.

If your pet has problems breathing and is overweight then weight reduction could be helpful. We can advise on suitable weight reducing diets.

### Cataract Surgery

Click [here](#) to get all the information regarding cataract surgeries performed right here in the UAE by the Animal Eye Hospital - South Africa, hosted by the British Veterinary Centre.