

Do I have to bring my dog back to MedVet for a check up?

If possible we would like to reevaluate our patients at MedVet. An 8-week postoperative reevaluation is required. At this time your dog will be evaluated physically and the replaced hip x-rayed. If it is not convenient for you to return to MedVet, we ask that you have your veterinarian x-ray your dog 8 weeks after surgery and send the x-rays to us for evaluation.

Both of my dog's hips are affected. Will both need to be replaced? How do you decide which hip to replace?

80% of the patients with problems in both hips only require *one* side be operated upon to return them to a satisfactory and comfortable life. The decision on which hip to replace is based on:

- Owner observations
- Physical examination findings
- Hip x-rays

Your knowledge of your pet's disability is helpful in making this decision.

Is THR the only treatment available for my pet?

No, aside from THR, other possibilities for treatment of your pet include medical therapy and other surgical options. The best treatment option(s) will be discussed with you after we have:

- Taken a medical history
- Evaluated x-rays
- Completed an orthopedic examination of your pet



Our Mission

MedVet is committed to delivering the highest quality, most compassionate specialty and emergency veterinary care available, to enhancing the health and well being of our patients and providing support for our clients as well as their family veterinarians.

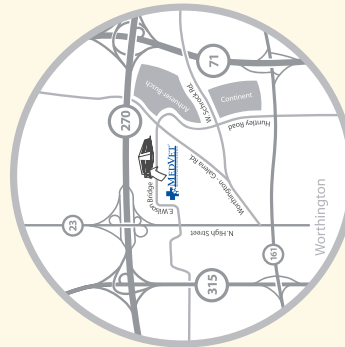
Our Values

TLC

Teamwork, Leadership and Compassion

Our Specialties

Anesthesiology
Cardiology Ophthalmology
Dentistry Radiology
Dermatology Radiation Oncology
Emergency Medicine Rehabilitation
Internal Medicine Surgery
Medical Oncology
Neurology



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Canine Total Hip Replacement

Frequently Asked Questions



We hope you find the following information helpful. Please let us know if you have any more questions.

What is a total hip replacement (THR)?

Both the ball (head of the femur) and socket (acetabulum) of the hip joint are replaced with implants. These new components interact smoothly and function in the same manner as a “normal” hip joint.

Can you tell from my dog’s x-rays (radiographs) if he/she is a good candidate for THR?

Radiographs document abnormalities in the hip joint and are used for choosing the proper sized implants. Many factors must be evaluated before your pet is considered a good THR candidate. To decide what is best for your pet the surgeon will:

- Evaluate your pet’s history
- Perform a complete physical examination
- Evaluate your pet’s radiographs
- Interpret laboratory data

How do you determine if my dog is a candidate for a THR?

A painful hip that is affecting your dog’s comfort, mobility and activity level is the primary indication for a THR.

- Stiffness, lameness and reluctance to exercise are often signs of problems.
- Your pet must also be in good general health.
- Your dog must be skeletally mature (finished growing), which generally occurs by 9 to 12 months of age.
- Your dog must have no ongoing or recurrent infection problems such as skin, ear or bladder infections.

What is the earliest age my dog can have this procedure done?

In most dogs 9 months of age is the earliest the procedure can be done. There are some large breeds where it will be necessary to delay surgery until at least 12 months of age or until the dog’s skeleton reaches maturity.

What can I expect from this surgery?

The goal of surgery is to return your pet to pain-free and mechanically sound hip function. The majority of dogs

are found to be more comfortable and have an improved quality of life following THR including:

- Increase in muscle mass.
- Improved hip motion.
- Increased activity levels are observed in most patients.
- Up to 95% of the replaced hips return to normal or near normal function.

My dog is on medication, should I stop giving it?

- Medications for health conditions such as diabetes or low thyroid function should not be stopped.
- Medications for hip pain can be continued up until surgery.
- Oral steroids (even for skin conditions) should ideally be stopped one week before the surgery.

Is surgery performed the day of your appointment?

No. Your pet must be screened before surgery. This entails:

- A complete history and physical examination.
- Additional x-rays of the hips, if required, will be taken.
- Your pet’s skin will be carefully examined for signs of infection.
- Preoperative blood work may be performed de-

pending on your dog’s age and health. If the preoperative evaluations reveal no abnormalities, surgery is then scheduled for another day.

How long will my pet stay in the hospital?

The routine length of hospitalization for patients having THR is overnight following surgery.

What is the success rate of THR?

In reviewing the records of patients that have had THR, over 95% of dogs have had good to excellent function with this procedure. These patients have:

- Normal pain-free function
- Increased muscle mass
- No limping
- Increased activity

What are the complications with this surgery?

As with any surgery, THRs have their own set of complications. While uncommon, the most described complications include:

- Hip joint dislocation
- Infections
- Loosening of the implants over time
- Sciatic nerve injury and fissures developing in the femur during implantation

Anesthesia itself carries only a small risk of complications. At MedVet we have a staff anesthesiologist who oversees anesthesia in your pet.

What is the postoperative care for my dog?

The postoperative care for your dog is critical. The activity level of your pet must be strictly controlled. For the first month after surgery:

- Your dog should only be allowed outside, *on a leash*, to urinate or defecate.
- Your pet should avoid stairs and slippery floors.
- Absolutely no running, jumping or playing is allowed for the first 2 months after surgery.
- When your dog is not under your direct control, he/she should be kept confined to a small area, cage or crate.

All postoperative restrictions are discussed in detail and written down for you at the time of your dog’s discharge from MedVet.

