

TPLO 8-Week Post-Operative Radiograph Evaluation

Patient: Biscuit Contreras

Post-Op Interval: 8 Weeks

Evaluation Performed By: Hani M Korani DVM, DACVS-SA

Date of Evaluation: 11/08/2025

Radiological Findings

1. **Implant Integrity and Position:** The TPLO plate and associated screws demonstrate excellent position and structural integrity. There is no radiographic evidence of implant loosening, bending, or migration. The overall stabilization remains sound and biomechanically stable.
2. **Osteotomy Healing:** Healing is confirmed to be underway. Early, diffuse **callus formation** is clearly visible across the cranial and caudal aspects of the osteotomy site. The osteotomy line is reducing in width and becoming less distinct, indicating active endochondral ossification.
3. **Healing Status:** Bony union is not yet complete or mature. The osteotomy gap remains identifiable, requiring continued reliance on the orthopedic implants for stabilization.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Radiographically, Biscuit is progressing well and is in line with the expected healing timeline for 8 weeks post-TPLO. The implants are holding securely.

Primary Recommendation: Continue with strict control of activity. The recovery protocol must now shift to controlled strengthening exercises while maintaining absolute vigilance regarding high-impact activities until complete bony union is confirmed via the next radiographic recheck.

Follow-up: Schedule the final healing radiograph recheck for **12 weeks post-operatively**.

8-Week Post-TPLO Rehabilitation Plan: Controlled Strength Phase

This plan covers the next critical phase of recovery, moving your dog from basic rest to controlled strengthening. We are very encouraged by the 8-week X-rays; the implants are holding well, and active bone healing is underway!

1. Confinement & Restrictions (STILL MANDATORY)

Although the bone is healing, it is not yet fully fused. **The recovery is completely dependent on your adherence to these rules** until the final X-rays confirm a complete union (at the 10 - 12 week mark).

- **Strict Confinement:** Your dog must be confined to a crate, kennel, or a small, safe, gated room when unsupervised.
- **100% Leash Rule:** Your dog must be on a short leash (4-6 ft) anytime they are outside, even in a fenced area, for elimination.
- **Running, Jumping, and Rough Play are FORBIDDEN:** Absolutely no leaping, running, or playing with other pets.
- **Slippery Floors:** Continue to use non-slip rugs or mats on all hard floors (tile, wood) to prevent dangerous slips, which could damage the repair.

2. Controlled Exercise Progression (Weeks 8-12)

The goal here is to increase the duration of walking and introduce specific exercises to build muscle mass. **Go slowly.** If you observe any increase in lameness or stiffness the day after exercise, immediately reduce the activity level for 48 hours.

- **Controlled Leash Walks (3 times per day):**
 - **Goal:** Gradually increase each walk to **25-30 minutes**. Walks must be slow and straight.
 - **Pacing:** A slower pace encourages the dog to place more weight on the surgical leg.
- **Sit-to-Stand Drills (2-3 times per day):**
 - Perform **10-15 repetitions** per session.
 - Ensure your dog uses the surgical leg equally for weight bearing. You can brace the non-surgical side against a wall or corner to encourage proper form.



- **Incline/Decline Walking (1 time per day):**
 - Walk slowly up and down a **very mild slope or curb** for short distances (50-100 ft). This is a great controlled way to build hindquarter strength.
- **Supervised Stairs (2 times per day):**
 - With your dog on a short leash, guide them **slowly** up and down a short flight of **5-7 steps**. Free access to stairs is still not permitted.

3. Critical Milestone & Next Steps

1. **Final X-Ray Appointment:** We must schedule the final radiographic recheck at the **12-week mark**. This appointment is mandatory to confirm that the bone has fully fused (healed).
2. **Lifting Restrictions:** **Only once the final X-rays confirm complete healing** will we provide you with the gradual instructions to return to running, off-leash activity, and unrestricted movement.

If you notice any sudden changes in your dog's comfort, swelling, or use of the leg, please contact us immediately at 415-853-7600 or dr.korani@hmvetsurg.com