Liberty Animal Hospital presents

Does My Dog Have a Torn CrCL?

Cranial cruciate ligament (CrCL) rupture--like a "torn ACL" in humans--is the #1 orthopedic condition in large-breed dogs in North America. If your dog has 2 or more of these clinical signs, come see us ASAP for a thorough examination because it may be a torn/ruptured CrCL.

1 YOUR NORMALLY ACTIVE MEDIUM-TO-LARGE BREED DOG IS SUDDENLY LAME IN A BACK LEG

We suspect a torn/ruptured CrCL or CrCL injury in the knee when a dog that is normally active becomes suddenly lame -- favoring one or both back legs. The lameness can develop slowly over time with a partially torn CrCL, arthritis, or other bone or ligament damage in the joint.

2 WAS RECENTLY CHASING, JUMPING, ETC.

A torn/ruptured CrCL is very likely when a dog's lameness develops during -- or right after -- intense exercise such as a Frisbee session, a lightning-quick rabbit or squirrel chase, or a jump onto or down from something taller than the dog's back (bed, vehicle, etc.).

3 BEGINS SITTING WITH THE PAINFUL KNEE ROTATED OUT/AWAY FROM BODY

Dogs are far from elegant when they sit...but a dog that has only recently started sitting with the painful knee rotated out or away from the body may have a torn/ruptured CrCL.

4 DOES NOT GET FULL RELIEF OF SYMPTOMS WITH PAIN MEDICINE

Not showing pain is protective for dogs. In the wild, showing pain signals that an animal is weak and easy prey. Don't let them trick you! If you have given your dog pain medication to help with the lameness and don't see full relief and resolution of the symptoms, a CrCL injury may be the problem.

5 SYMPTOMS DO NOT IMPROVE IN WEEKS OR MONTHS

If it has been weeks or months since the lameness started but the symptoms don't seem to be getting any better or don't completely go away, it's definitely time for a CrCL injury consultation.

CALL US TODAY FOR A CONSULT! 720-897-5595

Let's get to the bottom of your dog's pain and lameness ASAP. We'll do a thorough exam and give you a definitive diagnosis and treatment plan. CrCL injuries need to be fixed with surgery in the majority of dogs. There are several surgical options, including the tibial plateau leveling osteotomy (TPLO).

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