

10 Essential Questions to Ask Before Your Pet's Orthopedic Surgery

(Such as TPLO or Cruciate Repair)

Great surgeons welcome informed pet parents. These questions support a clear, respectful discussion about your pet's care and recovery. Feel free to print this page, check off questions, and add notes during your consultation.

- How many procedures like this have you performed, and what outcomes do you typically see?
 - Why is surgery the best option for my pet right now? Are there any conservative (non-surgical) options worth considering?
 - Can you walk me through what happens during the surgery and how long it usually takes?
 - What are the most common risks or complications with this procedure, and how do you work to minimize them?
 - How will my pet's pain be managed before, during, and after surgery?
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- What steps do you take during surgery to reduce the risk of infection, in addition to sterile technique and antibiotics?
 - I've read that saline rinses alone may not remove all bacteria, especially around implants. Are there any additional measures you sometimes use during surgery to reduce that risk?
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- What should I expect during recovery, including activity restrictions, rehabilitation, and timelines?
 - When will follow-up exams or imaging be needed, and what warning signs should I watch for at home?
 - Can you review the expected costs, including any potential additional expenses?
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Notes From My Consultation

If you're feeling nervous about asking, you can start with:
"I trust your judgment — I just want to understand all the ways we can reduce risks and support the best outcome for my pet."