

Understanding Joint Injuries and When Joint Replacement Surgery is the Best Choice for Your Pet



When is Joint Replacement surgery needed?

Chronic joint pain can significantly impact your pet's quality of life, leading to pain, reduced mobility, and an inability to enjoy their usual activities. Joint replacement surgery is often recommended when conservative treatments such as medication, physical therapy, or minimally invasive surgeries are no longer effective in managing joint issues like:

- Severe Arthritis
- Chronic joint instability
- Advanced Joint Degeneration
- Irreparable Joint Trauma

Joint replacement surgery involves removing the damaged surfaces within the joint and replacing them with a synthetic implant. This implant mimics the function of the natural joint, enabling a rapid return to controlled weight-bearing and normal function. As long as the surgery is performed by an experienced **Board Certified Veterinary Surgeon**, joint replacement is often the most effective option for pets with severe joint damage.

At H-Town Veterinary Specialists, we offer advanced joint replacement surgeries for the hip, knee, elbow, and ankle to restore mobility and reduce pain in pets. Each of the following surgeries provide significant pain relief and restore proper joint function, allowing your pet to move comfortably and enjoy an active life.



Before THR:
Severe Joint Disease



After THR:
Normal Function

Total Hip Replacement (THR) Surgery

These radiographs show a patient with severe hip dysplasia, before and after THR surgery. The procedure restores normal joint alignment and function, relieving pain caused by advanced joint degradation or arthritis.



Total Hip Replacement (THR)

Ideal for pets suffering from severe hip dysplasia or advanced arthritis in the hip joint.



Hock (Ankle) Replacement

For patients with debilitating arthritis or trauma in the ankle joint, this surgery restores mobility to one of the most complex joints in the leg.



Knee Replacement

Recommended for pets with advanced arthritis or severe damage to the knee joint, often following CCL (cranial cruciate ligament) injury.



Elbow Replacement

Used to treat chronic elbow dysplasia or arthritis that has caused severe deterioration of the joint.

Continued: **Finding an Experienced Surgeon**

Entrust your pet's care in experienced hands— Consider a Board Certified Veterinary Surgeon



Why Choose H-Town Veterinary Specialists?

For complex procedures such as joint replacement surgery, your pet's highest chance of a successful recovery is with a Veterinary Specialist-- specifically, a Board Certified Veterinary Surgeon. For a Veterinarian to specialize, the Board Certification process requires a minimum of 4 additional years of rigorous surgical training, repetition, and testing, through thousands of cases under the supervision of experienced Specialists. Our team of Board Certified Veterinary Surgeons has over 80,000 hours of combined experience in specialized surgical care. Outside of private practice, we have contributed to a variety of veterinary journals, textbook chapters, & published research, and we actively train future veterinary surgeons to become proficient in a variety of advanced orthopedic procedures.

How we maximize speed of recovery and quality of outcome for our patients:

- We see patients very quickly (often same day), unlike the 3-6 week wait time at other practices.
- All surgeries are planned in specialized software to ensure optimal implant selection.
- We use state of the art equipment and imaging technology.
- We use arthroscopy to assess arthritic damage of the joint before surgery. In most cases, this is essential for achieving the best surgical outcome.

How we give our clients the best experience possible:

- As a practice run by Veterinary Specialists, we are generally more flexible and less expensive than larger multispecialty hospitals.
- Your surgeon will speak with you before & after surgery to answer questions and help you decide the treatment that works best for you and your pet.
- After surgery, our team will walk you through your post-operative care plan to facilitate the best possible recovery for your pet. We also provide a F.A.Q. to help with potential questions that may arise after surgery.

What To Expect After Surgery

Restricted Activity

- Leash walk and strict activity limits for at least 6–8 weeks to protect the healing bone.

Follow-Up Visits

- X-rays are taken after 4-8 weeks to monitor healing and guide when activity can increase.

Rehabilitation

- Guided exercises may be recommended to rebuild strength and flexibility

Week 0-2



Week 3-6



Week 6-8



Week 8-10



Post-10 Weeks

Crate Rest
Limit Activity

Gradual Walks
Leash Only

Gentle Rehab
Range-of-Motion

Longer Walks
Light Play

Gradual Return to Normal Activity
Closely Monitor



Call for a fast consultation

(M-F 8am-5pm) 832.776.5574

www.htown.vet