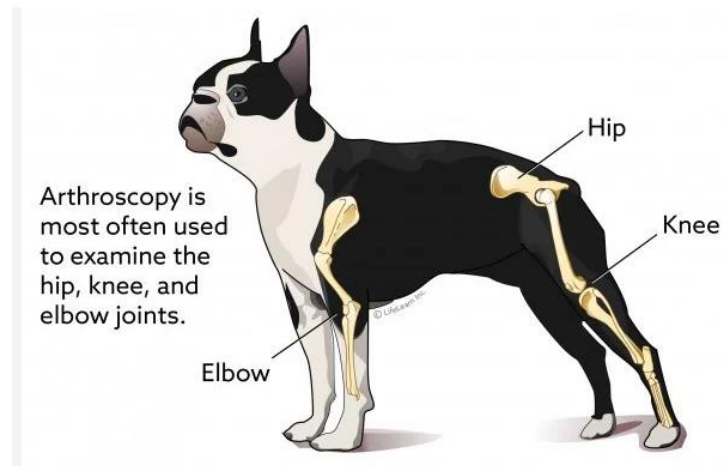


ARTHROSCOPY

Arthroscopy is a minimally invasive surgical technique used to diagnose and treat joint diseases in dogs by inserting a small, fiber-optic camera through tiny incisions. It is frequently performed on shoulders, elbows, knees (stifles), and hocks to address conditions like elbow dysplasia, cruciate ligament tears, and joint inflammation. This method provides superior visualization compared to traditional open surgery (arthrotomy), resulting in less pain, fewer infections, and a faster recovery for the dog.



Common Joint Conditions Treated

- **Elbow Dysplasia:** Fragmented medial coronoid process (FCP) and joint cartilage evaluation.
- **Shoulder:** Osteochondritis dissecans (OCD) and bicep tendon injuries.
- **Other:** Removal of bone fragments (osteophytes) and management of osteoarthritis

Benefits of Arthroscopy in Dogs

- **Minimally Invasive:** Only two or three 1-centimeter incisions are typically required, causing minimal soft tissue disruption.
- **Reduced Pain and Recovery Time:** Due to smaller incisions, dogs typically experience less post-operative pain and a quicker return to using their limbs.
- **Improved Accuracy:** The camera magnifies the internal structures of the joint, allowing veterinarians to see and treat issues that might be missed during open surgery.
- **Better Diagnosis:** Allows for real-time visualization of cartilage damage, ligaments, and tendons that may not be fully apparent on X-rays or CT scans

Procedure and Recovery: this procedure is performed under general anesthesia. Our surgeons create small ports to insert the camera (arthroscope) and specialized surgical instruments to remove fragments, trim damaged cartilage, or treat inflamed tissue. The recovery period is generally much faster than open surgery, but post-operative care typically includes restricted exercise and rehabilitation for several weeks.

Risks of General Anesthesia: We listen closely to your pet's medical history and carefully review any provided medical records. Your pet will have a detailed physical exam, appropriate pre-operative screening blood tests, and possibly radiographs to identify and control anesthetic risk factors. Even with these measures, anesthesia remains a small, but present risk. For this reason, we use the safest intravenous and inhalational anesthetics. Our anesthesia doctor and highly experienced technical staff are well trained in the administration and monitoring of all types of sedation and general anesthesia. Your pet is carefully monitored by a formally trained and experienced licensed technician during anesthesia and recovery and is under the care of our veterinarians and veterinary staff the night following their procedure.

At Home: Your pet will typically go home the day after surgery. During your scheduled discharge appointment, we will review our detailed, written home care instructions. We will also answer any questions and address any concerns that you may have at that time. In the first several days post-operatively, your dog will be healing from the surgical procedure. Because bones and muscle are cut during this procedure, the focus during this period will be on pain control. Please give all medications as prescribed. Moist heat may also be recommended during this period, to provide comfort and decrease stiffness.

- We will provide medications for discomfort during the post-operative period.
- In general, you should plan for 8-12 weeks of activity restriction after surgery.
- We recommend that you keep your pet in relative confinement (crate, kennel, smaller room with a baby gate, "mud" room, laundry room) when unsupervised.
- Slow, short leash walks 3-5 times per day on a level surface are recommended.
- We would like to re-evaluate your pet approximately 8 weeks after surgery. The amount of exercise and activity will be adjusted at this evaluation based upon the amount of bone healing, but generally activity will be increased gradually between the 8th and 12th week after surgery.

6910 Carpenter Fire Station Road Cary, NC 27519
P: 919-545-1001 E: surgery@quartetvet.com