



The Holderness Road practice undertakes many orthopaedic procedures each year. We have extensive orthopaedic equipment for fracture repair. We have high-quality plates and screws, intra-medullary pins, and external fixators. We also undertake surgery for cruciate ligament repair, luxating patellas, hip dislocation, pelvic fractures, surgery for OCD, and even broken jaws.

Bone plates

Plates are screwed onto the long bones and sometimes the pelvis over a fracture site to stop any movement. They can be surgically challenging to put on, but they are very strong and usually give good results. Unfortunately screws may loosen, and the implant may need to be removed. If infection is present then the plate may fail. Generally however they work very well and most plates do not need to be removed.

Intra- medullary pinning

This is where a steel pin or rod is inserted inside the bone to pull the fracture together. This type of repair is most useful in fractures of the humerus and femur, and is especially useful in cats. The intra-medullary pin may be supported on the outside by an external fixator, or circlage wire on the inside to ensure that the bone holds together.

External fixators

This is where the steel rods are bolted to pins drilled through the bone on either side of the fracture. Usually there is one rod either side of the leg that are bolted to up to 6 pins that enter the bone on either side of the fracture. These are very useful in fractures below the elbow and the knee. They are also very good for fractures that come through the skin, open fractures, or where the break has many shards of bone. They are easier than bone plates to put on, have a fairly low infection rate, high success rate but they do have to be taken off.

Stifle surgery

Cruciate disease. This is where an internal ligament inside the knee breaks. This makes the knee unstable. It is a painful condition and if left untreated can lead to severe arthritis.

The two types of surgery offered at Haven Vet Group. For most animals (especially those weighing under 30 kg) a leader line repair is undertaken. This is where an 80lb breaking strain monofilament nylon is tied around the knee through two bone tunnels. This prevents abnormal movement of the state of the knee, thereby speeding up recovery and reducing arthritis. This procedure has been proven effective with a fairly high success rate. Unfortunately if the nylon breaks in some dogs it has to be removed. This however is not as difficult a job as it was to put it in!

Dr Mackay also undertakes the TPLO procedure. TPLO (tibial platform levelling osteotomy) is where a pyramid of bone is removed to make the bottom of the knee joint flatter. The bone plate is applied where the bone was removed. This is a more difficult procedure than the leader line repair, and it is popular with a feral orthopaedic specialists.