

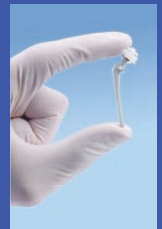


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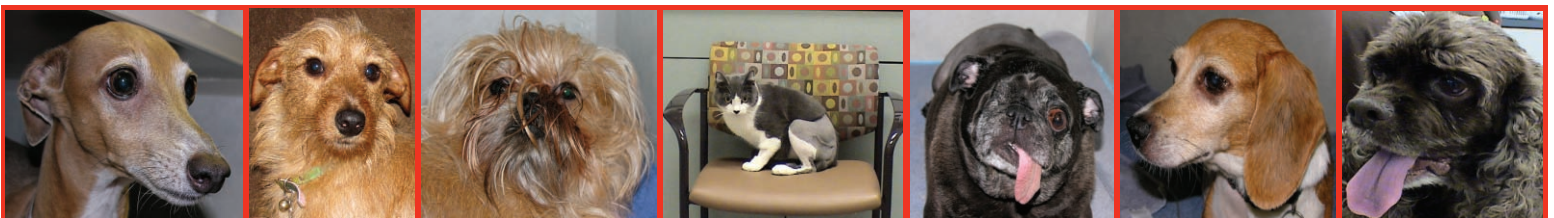
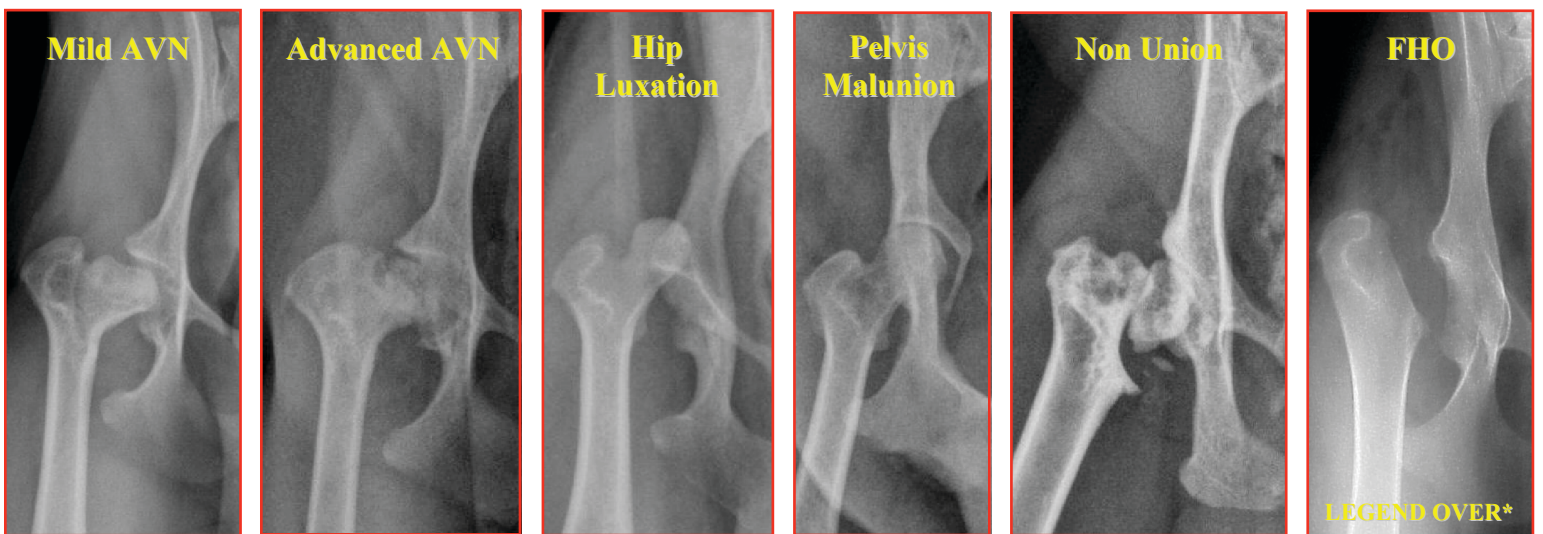
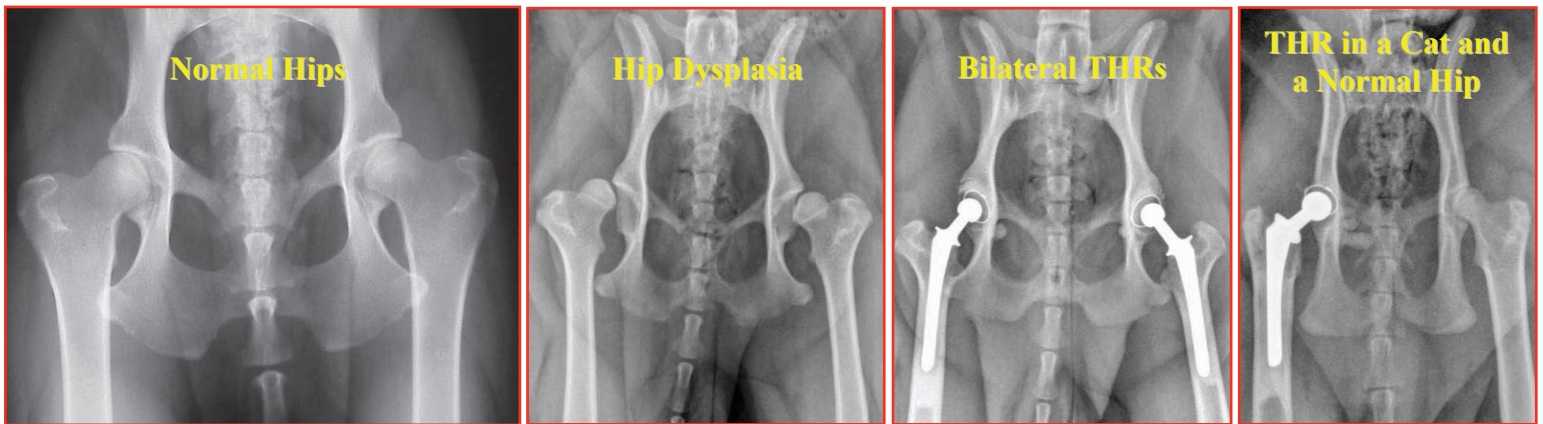
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Click on the Surgery tab and then visit Surgery Topics

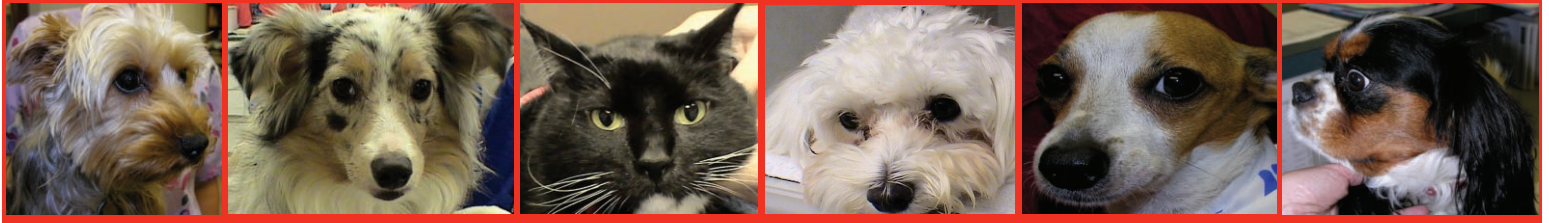


HIP REPLACEMENT in Small Dogs and Cats

The objective of Total Hip Replacement (THR) is to establish a pain free joint with normal mechanical function to improve quality of life regardless of patient's size. When an experienced surgical team performs the procedure, the risks are low and complications are minimized. Please discuss this option with your veterinarian and ask for a referral appointment if you would like more information.



***LEGEND:** Normal hips have the femoral heads seated deeply in the acetabulum compared to hip dysplasia. Bilateral THR (Total Hip Replacement) resolves the problem. THR in cats is also successful. Indications for THR include avascular necrosis of the femoral head (AVN) (also called Legg-Perthes Disease) which may be mild or severe, hip luxation, arthritis secondary to pelvis malunion of fractures, and non-union of femoral neck fractures. The alternative to THR is a salvage procedure called femoral head ostectomy (FHO).



GENERALITIES ABOUT TOTAL HIP REPLACEMENTS

Small dogs (<25 pounds) and cats with hip pain often exhibit only subtle symptoms - especially initially. There are multiple indications for hip replacement surgery including hip dysplasia, arthritis from old injuries or “wear and tear” during life, irreparable fractures, hip luxation that can not be maintained in reduction, and developmental abnormalities such as avascular necrosis of the femoral head (AVN = Legg-Perthes Disease). THR surgery is common at less than 1 year of age, but it can be performed at any age if there are no other health issues that are of higher priority.

The materials used to manufacture the prosthesis are very durable and are not expected to “wear out” during an animal’s life time. Therefore, there is no need to wait until arthritis is severe or chronic. Rehabilitation is easy for most. Almost all patients walk on the new hip the day after surgery and they are mobile when they go home. Often they do well quickly so vigorous and strenuous activity should be eliminated for about 6 weeks postoperatively. Daily walks start at that time when it is known that everything is healed for the long term.

Perioperative pain management is provided for every patient. Risks involved with the surgery exist as they do for humans getting a hip replacement. However, the risks are small. A highly experienced surgical team will minimize THR risks and complications.

Dogs and cats resume normal activity after rehabilitation. Endurance activity, such as long daily walks, is good for general health and does not create a THR complication. The rehabilitation program can be tailored for small dogs to resume a normal life including competition, service dogs, and dogs that run long distances. Cats resume normal activity in the home including jumping.



SURGICAL TEAM QUALIFICATIONS

We have been performing total hip replacements for over 20 years and stay advanced with state-of-the-art generations of instrumentation and implants. Both the cementless and cemented prostheses manufactured by BioMedtrix (www.BioMedtrix.com), the worldwide leading maker of implants, are used, and they are available for patients as small as 5# ranging up to 150#. For several years, Gulf Coast Veterinary Surgery has been the nation's leader in numbers of THR procedures performed annually. We have presented scientific papers at the major national and international surgery and veterinary orthopedic meetings, and we have publications in major refereed scientific literature. All THR procedures are performed by surgeons that are Board Certified by the American College of Veterinary Surgeons. Only the safest anesthetic agents are used exclusively, Registered Veterinary Technicians are an integral part of the surgery team, and in-house 24-hour patient care is provided 365 days a year with doctors on call for emergencies. Additional information is available by visiting our website at www.GCVS.com click on the Surgery tab then visit Surgery Topics.

All of the dogs and cats featured in this handout have a total hip replacement.

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