Garden State Veterinary Specialists is a multi-disciplinary referral only practice whose goal is to provide progressive, state-of-the-art veterinary care in the fields of surgery, internal medicine, cardiology, neurology, oncology, acupuncture, ophthalmology, dermatology, nuclear medicine and emergency/critical care. The support staff is a team of receptionists and animal health care technicians who understand the close bond that exists between a family and their pet. We are committed to making the referral experience one of personal service for the client and the referring veterinarian with specialized individualized care for the patient.

Our Surgery Department is comprised of six highly qualified surgeons, who are available 24/7.

Referral Policy

Patients treated at Garden State Veterinary Specialists must be referred by their veterinarian. The patient will only be treated for the condition for which they were referred; no routine procedures (i.e., vaccinations, prophylactic heartworm testing) are performed on any patients of the hospital.
Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Total Hip Replacement?
A Total Hip Replacement (THR) is designed to eliminate the source of discomfort by replacing the arthritic hip joint with an artificial joint. Replacement of the hip joint is a state-of-the-art procedure, very similar to the procedure in humans. The arthritic femoral head and neck are removed and replaced with a metal implant made of cobalt chrome and titanium. The arthritic socket is removed and replaced with a plastic cup. Both components are held in place with sterile bone cement. The metal head and plastic cup fit and function like the original ball and socket joint providing pain-free, mechanically sound function.

Why choose a Total Hip Replacement?
A Total Hip Replacement is performed as an optimal means of relieving pain, improving hip function and allowing your dog to return to an active lifestyle. The arthritic joint is replaced with the implant resulting in elimination of the pain of bone rubbing on bone in the arthritic joint. The decreased range of motion associated with the arthritic joint is corrected allowing a good range of hip motion.

Is my dog a candidate for a Total Hip Replacement?
A If your dog is over 12 months of age and weighs more than 45 pounds and has clinical signs associated with hip arthritis or dysplasia, or has had a traumatic hip luxation, your pet is a potential candidate for a hip replacement. A thorough examination to rule out other orthopedic or neurologic problems is always an important part of the pre-operative examination.

Are there alternative surgeries to Total Hip Replacement?
A Yes, a femoral head and neck osteotomy (i.e., removal of the ball part of the joint) can be performed as an alternative procedure. The ball part (femoral head) is removed allowing a “false-joint” to form. Eventually, new tissue fills in between the bones allowing support and function of the limb. This surgery has a variable success rate with 20-25% of owners reporting low grade persistence of limping or trouble jumping. The procedure is not as optimal as a hip replacement, however; results overall are satisfactory to good.

When should the surgery be performed?
A Surgery to replace the hip joint is recommended when pain or limping are present. Radiographs of the hips are performed to confirm the diagnosis of degenerative arthritis. Surgery is generally recommended if conservative therapy via pain medication is not adequate in relieving the degree of limping or pain associated with the arthritis.

Should both hips receive a Total Hip Replacement?
A Only one hip can be done at a time. The most painful hip should be replaced first. If pain is present on both sides, both sides should be replaced. The interval between surgeries is at least three months, however, over 80% of dogs do not need a second surgery despite the presence of arthritis in the other hip.

What do dogs go through to get a Total Hip Replacement?
A The surgery takes 90 to 120 minutes. They are under continuously monitored isoflurane general anesthesia. Vital parameters, such as heart rate, heart rhythm, tissue perfusion, respiratory rate and pattern, temperature and blood pressure are monitored. The surgery is performed with extensive precautions to prevent infection. Much attention is paid to preoperative preparation of the patient, instrument preparation, aseptic technique, and environment control in the operating room. Pain medication is administered preoperatively and maintained as long as needed. The patient is hospitalized with 24 hour patient care. Most dogs routinely support some weight immediately postoperatively. They are generally released from the hospital in the second postoperative day.

What is the aftercare associated with the surgery?
A Exercise restriction (i.e., no running or jumping) must be followed for two months following the surgery to allow all tissues to heal around the implant. Vigorous activity is to be avoided during this time period.

How do dogs feel with a Total Hip Replacement?
A Most dogs walk on their new hip immediately after surgery. Most pet owners report their dog’s personality improves and that their dog feels great. Gradual return to normal function is allowed between 8 and 12 weeks after surgery. A long-term study found THR to be a very effective method of treating disabling conditions of the canine hip. The majority of dogs displayed marked improvement in walking, sitting, climbing stairs, standing, running, getting into the car, playing, and exercise following surgery. THR’s have been performed in both pets and working dogs with equal success.