

PARTIAL RUPTURE OF THE CRANIAL CRUCIATE LIGAMENT OF THE STIFLE IN DOGS: REPORT OF 23 CLINICAL CASES

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Summary. Partial rupture of the cranial cruciate ligament of the stifle joint was diagnosed in 23 dogs. In all cases, the primary problem at the time of physical examination was hind limb lameness. The mean time from initial onset of lameness to definitive diagnosis during arthrotomy was 3.5 month. A cranio-caudal instability of the stifle joint (a cranial drawer sign) was detected in 10 of 23 dogs. In 7 cases cranial drawer sign was positive only in flexed joint. In out of 12 of 23 dogs cranial drawer sign in affected joint was not detected. In all dogs lateral parapatelar arthrotomy was performed and the cranial cruciate ligament was found incompletely torn. Lesions identified during arthrotomy were rupture of the craniomedial band (19 dogs), distorsion of all ligament without rupture (3 dogs), rupture of the caudolateral band (1dog).

Keywords: dogs, stifle joint, cruciate ligaments, rupture