



southpaws
SPECIALTY SURGERY FOR ANIMALS

Director:

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Oncology

Surgical Oncology

Radiation Oncology

Chemotherapy

Orthopaedic Surgery

Soft Tissue Surgery

Neurosurgery

**Minimally Invasive
Surgery**

**Reconstructive
Surgery**

**Cardiothoracic
Surgery**

Advanced Imaging

CT
Fluoroscopy
Ultrasonography
CR
MRI access

Internal Medicine

Gastroenterology
Respiratory Disease
Endocrinology
Neurology
Urology

Canine Thoracolumbar Spinal Surgery Guarantee

We sometimes see clients that are reluctant to proceed with spinal surgery because of concerns over out-of-pocket expenses incurred even if their dog never walks again. Through a thorough review of our acute thoracolumbar disc surgery patients, we have found that almost all dogs that have deep pain sensation preoperatively are ambulatory (unassisted) within 30 days of surgery. Because of this finding, we are confident enough to give a written agreement that if your dog is not ambulatory without assistance within 30 days of acute thoracolumbar disc surgery, you will receive a full refund of expenses incurred at Southpaws for the initial imaging, hospitalisation and surgery which were associated with that disc rupture. Alternatively, you can apply those expenses to further treatment at Southpaws including repeated imaging, further surgery and/or physiotherapy.

We feel that this will give you the confidence to pursue spinal surgery knowing that if results are not what was expected (i.e. your dog is not able to ambulate without assistance), you will not be out-of-pocket. Remember that this is not a guarantee that their dog absolutely will walk again, but simply a recourse should the outcome not be what was hoped.

The fine print:

- The patient must have deep pain sensation in the hindlimbs prior to surgery for this to apply. If the patient meets the criteria, owners will receive a certificate outlining the parameters of the guarantee.
- This guarantee applies to dogs whose symptoms of hindlimb paresis/paralysis were acute in onset and occurred within 1 week of surgery at Southpaws.
- A thoracolumbar disc rupture must be confirmed at the time of imaging.
- Patients must comply with our recommendations for postoperative care including rechecks at Southpaws and physiotherapy. Physiotherapy must be continued until the patient is ambulatory or for 30 days, whichever comes first.
- This guarantee will not apply if the lack of recovery is due to a recurrent disc rupture at the same or another site after the initial surgery.
- The final assessment must be made at Southpaws by the surgical staff before 30 days postoperatively.
- The guarantee does not apply if a different diagnosis (other than disc rupture) is made at the time of imaging or surgery (i.e. tumour, fibrocartilagenous embolism, or degenerative myelopathy.)