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TENDON INJURIES IN DOGS AND CATS: TRICEPS, PATELLA AND ACHILLES TENDON

Triceps, Patella and Achilles Tendon injuries are uncommon, but require prompt & adequate treatment. They can have a traumatic or atraumatic aetiology.

For Achilles tendon (Common Calcaneal Tendon) and triceps tendon injuries, there are often signs of an underlying tendinopathy present. Patella tendon injuries are more frequently traumatic in origin, with one third of patella tendon ruptures having an iatrogenic aetiology, either through direct injury during surgery, or delayed in onset after surgery.

Clinically, tendon injury of all three tendons leads to the inability to extend the respective joint, elbow, stifle or tarsal joint. Orthopaedic examination in combination with radiography and ultrasound is usually sufficient for diagnosis. Advanced imaging like MRI may be helpful for surgical planning in some cases. Treatment aims are repair of the tendon, protecting tendon healing, and rehabilitation of the affected joint.

Treatment is surgical in most cases and consists of tenorrhaphy using non-absorbable or slowly absorbable monofilament suture material and specific tendon suture pattern like three loop pulley, locking loop or continuous cruciate. As tendon healing is slow, after surgery.

Complications associated with the fixation methods are very common, suture dehiscence is occasionally seen, and complications may require further surgery. Despite these complications, overall prognosis for return to function is often favourable.

References: