

Infraspinatus Tendon Contracture

Surgery Service



**Michigan Veterinary
Specialistssm**

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Available Services

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- Ophthalmology
- Orthopedic Surgery
- Radiology & Fluoroscopy
- Soft Tissue Surgery
- Ultrasound

Locations

Auburn Hills

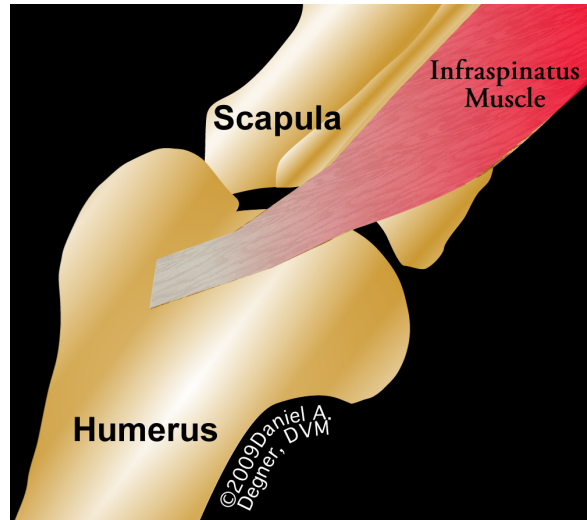
3412 E. Walton Blvd.
(West of Squirrel Rd.)
(248) 371-3713

Grand Rapids

1425 Michigan St. NE
(East of Fuller Rd.)
(616) 284-5300

MVS Southfield

29080 Inkster Rd.
(North of 12 Mile Rd.)
(248) 354-6660



externally rotated.

Anatomy

The shoulder is supported by a set of tendons and ligaments. Tendons attach a muscle to the bone, whereas a ligament attaches one bone to another. The infraspinatus muscle is responsible for external rotation and extension of the shoulder joint.

Injury to the infraspinatus muscle is usually takes place during hunting or other athletic activities. Initially, this will cause lameness, but subsequently as the muscle heals with scar tissue the muscle becomes very tight (contracture) and the limb becomes

Signs and diagnosis

The most common sign of an infraspinatus muscle contracture is external rotation of the limb (see photo right). When walking or trotting a swinging or circumducting movement of the affected limb is seen. On physical examination, the limb cannot be internally rotated at the shoulder due to the frozen muscle. X-rays of the shoulder may be recommended to rule out other problems of the shoulder. Blood testing is performed prior to surgery to ensure a safe anesthesia.



The day of surgery

Our anesthesia and surgical team will prescribe a pain management program, both during and after surgery, that will keep your companion comfortable. This will include a combination of general anesthesia, injectable analgesics, oral analgesics, and anti-inflammatory medication.

Treatment

An incision is made over the side of the affected shoulder. The tendon of the contracted infraspinatus muscle is isolated and a section of the tendon is removed to free up the movement of the shoulder.

Infraspinatus Tendon Contracture Continued...

Aftercare and results

After surgery, you can continue to give your pet a prescribed pain reliever to minimize discomfort. It's also extremely important to limit your dog's activity and exercise level during this post-operative period. Rehabilitation exercises can be done at your home or if you choose, by professionally trained therapists at an animal rehabilitation center. Rehabilitation therapy should be continued for 4 weeks after surgery. Detailed instructions will be given to you after the surgery.

The surgeon will monitor the healing process with two follow-up exams. The first is scheduled for two weeks after the surgery and the second is at eight weeks after the surgery. By 2 days after surgery, most dogs are able to walk on the operated limb and the abnormal swinging gait will no longer be present. Exercise should be limited during the first two months after the procedure. Within eight weeks after surgery, the shoulder usually has healed. Dogs that receive the surgery usually are able to resume working activities such as hunting after complete healing has taken place (about 4 months later).

Assessment and recommendations

Patient: _____ Date: _____

Treatment

- Surgery is recommended by a surgeon at MVS
- No treatment is recommended at this time

The following has been prescribed

- No medications or special diet are necessary at this time
- Prescription joint diet: _____
- Neuroceutical: _____
- Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory medication: _____
- Other medication: _____

Exercise:

- Unlimited
- Confine your pet to the house other than very short leash walks necessary for bowel movements and urination
- Restrict exercise to leash walks 10 minutes twice daily

Preparation for surgery

- Start fasting your companion at midnight before the surgery; water should not be withheld
- Pepcid AC 10 mg tablets: give _____ tablets with water (use a syringe if needed) at 6 AM on the day of surgery
- Other medications: _____

*Composed by Daniel A. Degner, DVM, DACVS
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