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Small Animal Surgery Referral Price Guide

These price ranges are intended to help referring veterinary teams provide clients with a realistic estimate before referral. They are based on review of recent referral surgery discharge totals and are designed to reflect typical costs from surgery through expected healing and routine surgical follow-up.

Final estimates are provided after consultation and may vary depending on patient size, medical stability, additional diagnostics, case complexity, hospitalization requirements, implant needs, and intra-operative findings.

Orthopedic surgery includes the surgical procedure, post-operative radiographs through confirmed radiographic healing, and complimentary recheck examinations for 6 months.

For CCL/TPLO referrals submitted through the website, the initial surgical consultation is complimentary for owners. This allows families to receive a practical estimate and case-specific recommendations before committing to surgery.

Oncology surgery includes the surgical procedure, pre-operative and/or intra-operative sentinel lymph node mapping, histopathology of submitted tissues, and complimentary post-operative examinations for 12 months.

Please see each section for the procedures included in each price tier

Additional diagnostics are not included unless specifically stated. This may include FNA cytology, thoracic radiographs, abdominal ultrasound, laboratory testing, pre-operative radiographs, CT scan for surgical planning or oncologic staging, or other case-specific testing recommended at consultation or during follow-up, including repeat staging that may be recommended for selected oncology case..

Submit referrals at: smallanimalsurgeon.com/refer

Orthopedic Surgery

All ranges are pre-tax and reflect typical totals after referral.

Tier 1 – \$3,000–4,700; Lower-complexity orthopedic stabilization and minor fracture repair

- Extracapsular Lateral Suture Stabilization (cats and small dogs where TPLO is contraindicated)
- Minor Fracture Repair (minimally invasive stabilization; limited reduction and/or exposure)
 - o Tibial tuberosity avulsion fracture (includes intra-operative fluoroscopy)
 - o Non-displaced diaphyseal tibia fracture in a puppy (includes intra-operative fluoroscopy)

Tier 2 – \$4,500–6,000; Common unilateral orthopedic surgery and routine fracture repair

- Standard TPLO with muscle-sparing approach (Unilateral)
- Medial patellar luxation repair (Unilateral)
- Simple Fracture Repair (open reduction and standard plate and screw repair)
 - o Simple displaced mid-diaphyseal fracture requiring open reduction
- Femoral Head and Neck Osteotomy (Unilateral)
- Toggle Stabilization of Hip Luxation (Unilateral)

Tier 3 – \$5,800–8,000; Advanced orthopedic repair with added planning or follow-up

- TPLO with Internal Brace for rotational instability correction (Unilateral)
- TPLO with concurrent medial patellar luxation correction (Unilateral)
- Medial patellar luxation repair (Bilateral)
- Complex Fracture (multi-implant fixation; plate plus intramedullary pin or interlocking nail)
 - o Distal radius-ulna fracture in toy breed dog (includes 4-month radiographs and implant removal if needed for implant-induced osteoporosis)
 - o Comminuted femur fracture in a large breed dog
 - o Open fracture repair (includes culture, 4-week and 10-week radiographs)
- Bilateral Femoral Head and Neck Osteotomy (Single-session, non-obese cats only)

Tier 4 – \$7,800–10,500; Specialist orthopedic reconstruction, fusion or deformity correction

- Bilateral TPLO (single-session, includes two-night stay)
- Unilateral MPL with Deformity Correction (includes 3D-printed patient-specific guide)
- Angular Limb Deformity Correction (includes 3D-printed patient-specific guide)
- Articular Fracture (includes intra-operative fluoroscopy and/or arthroscopy)
 - o Humeral unicondylar and bicondylar (T-Y) fracture
- Arthrodesis (any joint, includes 4-week and 10-week radiographs)
- Tendon Repair (includes internal fixation and 6-week implant removal or serial bandage care)

Soft Tissue Oncology Surgery

All ranges are pre-tax and reflect typical totals after referral.

Tier 1 – \$3,000–4,700; Routine oncologic surgery with predictable closure and aftercare.

- Mass removal with routine primary closure
 - o Superficial or deep masses (includes need for wide margins)
 - o Includes staged second side chain mastectomy in cats
- Digit amputation
- Stable Splenectomy (non-ruptured splenic mass)
- Cryptorchid Castration (Abdominal)

Tier 2 – \$4,500–6,000; Oncologic surgery with deeper anatomic dissection or lymph node removal

- Mass removal with second intention healing (includes bandage management)
- Mass removal with superficial lymph node removal (mandibular, superficial cervical, axillary, inguinal, popliteal)
 - o Includes unilateral chain mastectomy in cats
- Limb amputation (including oncologic tumors)
- Ruptured splenic mass (including cases requiring transfusion)
- Left-sided liver lobectomy

Tier 3 – \$5,800–8,000; Major oncologic surgery requiring reconstruction or multi-site removal

- Mass removal with axial pattern flap or skin graft reconstruction
- Multi-site mass removal with routine primary closure
 - o Includes bilateral anal sac mass removal (recommended for AGASACA)
- Right-sided or multi-lobar liver lobectomy (including cases requiring transfusion)

Tier 4 – \$7,800–10,500; Major oncology surgery involving an additional surgical field

- Bilateral chain mastectomy (single session, includes two nights of hospitalization)
- Mass removal with separate-field lymph node removal (sublumbar/medial iliac)

Soft Tissue, Internal Medicine, and Emergency Referral Surgery

All ranges are pre-tax and reflect typical totals after referral.

Tier 1 – \$3,000–4,700; Routine referral soft tissue surgery with predictable recovery.

- Brachycephalic airway surgery (BRisk score <3)
- Laparoscopic liver biopsies
- Laparoscopic ovariectomy ± gastropexy
- Routine cystotomy
- Simple foreign body removal (e.g., dog ate toy or ball)
- Urethral prolapse repair (male)
- Colopexy ± cystopexy (bilateral/recurrent perineal hernia stabilization)

Tier 2 – \$4,500–6,000; Stable referral surgery with increased complexity but stable physiology.

- Brachycephalic airway surgery (BRisk score ≥5) includes postoperative high flow O₂
- Salivary sialocele (mandibular-sublingual gland removal)
- Linear foreign body or likely resection and anastomosis required
- Cystotomy with urethrotomy
- Non-ruptured gallbladder mucocele (cholecystectomy)
- Perineal hernia repair (Unilateral)

Tier 3 – \$5,800–8,000; Major soft tissue surgery requiring advanced anatomic dissection

- Septic Abdomen (resection and anastomosis with intensive post-operative monitoring)
- Ruptured gall bladder mucocele without diversion (cholecystectomy)
- Uroabdomen due to bladder rupture/tear
- Perineal urethrostomy and cystotomy
- TECA-LBO / VBO
- Perineal hernia repair (Bilateral / Recurrent unilateral)

Tier 4 – \$7,800–10,500; Major soft tissue surgery requiring intensive post-operative monitoring

- Septic resection requiring transfusion or advanced medical support
- Diversion or rerouting procedures (Billroth, Roux-en-Y, cholecystoduodenostomy)
- Ureteral reconstruction or rerouting (ureteroneocystostomy for ureteral tear)
- Major combined abdominal procedures involving separate organs