Staple Placement Guide

- Staples come in three sizes standard breed, small breed and micro staple.
- The staple can be placed at approximately 90 degrees or 45 degrees to the long axis of the tibia.
- The size of staple used is dependent on the morphology of the tibia. You do not need to use a standard breed staple for a standard breed wedge.
- The default staple size and position is a small breed staple at 90 degrees to long axis.
- The drill hole in the tibial tuberosity is bicortical.
- The drill hole in the tibial tuberosity is ideally in the distal 1/3.
- The drill hole in the tibial diaphysis is monocortical.
- The drill holes should be in good quality bone stock, ie the holes have a complete annulus of bone surrounding them.

- The drill holes should not be close to the cranial or caudal tibial cortices or to the osteotomy/wedge (ideally 2-3mm away).
- The drill holes should not be in-line with the Maquet drill hole.
- Be careful with the thick periosteum of the tibial tuberosity as it disguises the true cranial cortex which is more caudal than you palpate.
- Be careful with the popliteus muscle covering the caudal tibial cortex.
- Double stapling can be used in cases where the tibial tuberosity is significantly unstable before staple placement, where the wedge remains slightly unstable after seating one staple, in dogs above 45kg or in simultaneous bilateral surgery cases.
- Double staples are normally placed in the 90 degree to the long axis position just proximal and distal to the single staple position.
- In very small dogs (approximately <7.5kgs) a tension band wire may need to be used due to inadequate bone stock to seat the staple.



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