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COLORADO CANINE ORTHOPEDICS



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Arthroscopy – We'll show you around the joint

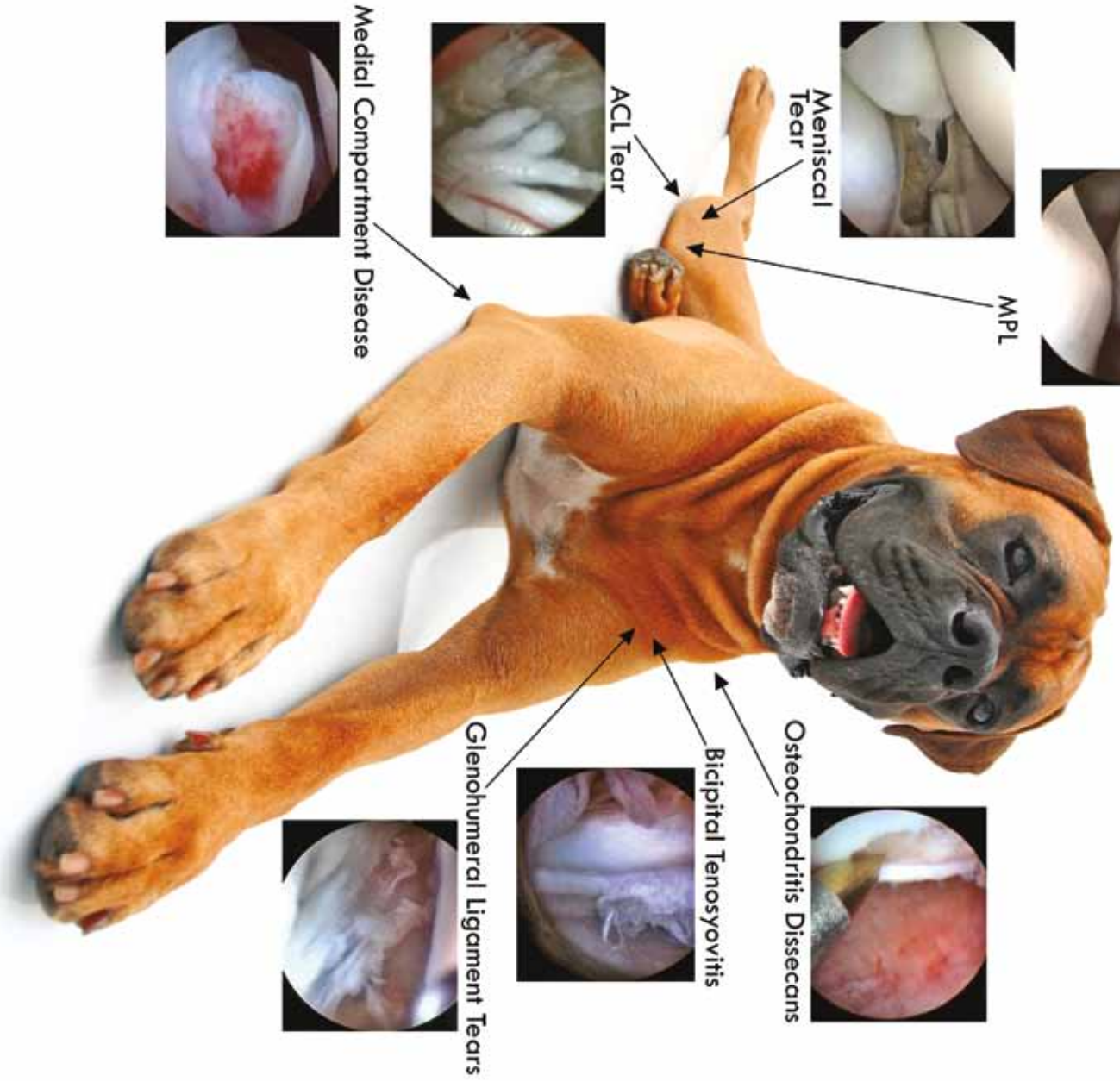
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SECTION A
Arthroscopy – We'll show you around the joint
Dr. Michael Bauer, Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Surgeons, Colorado Canine Orthopedics

Arthroscopy is a surgical technique used to visualize, diagnose and treat intra-articular problems. The word comes from two Greek words, “arthro” (joint) and “skopein” (to look). The term literally means, “to look within the joint.” In an arthroscopic procedure, a tiny incision is made in the skin and a scope about half the diameter of a chopstick that contains a small lens and lighting system to magnify and illuminate the structures is inserted into the joint. Light is transmitted through fiber optics to the end of the arthroscope and a miniature camera connects to a monitor for viewing.

Arthroscopy

We'll show you around the joint



SECTION B
Continued...
ARTHROSCOPY – WE'LL SHOW YOU AROUND THE JOINT

Typically in an arthroscopic procedure, three small portals are created: one for the scope and fluid influx (saline flows through the scope sleeve), one for the egress cannula and one for small instruments such as graspers, scissors, probes, electric shavers (fig.1), radio wave vaporizers, etc. The portals are usually so small that no sutures are required.



Figure 1

Arthroscopy has revolutionized the way veterinary surgeons diagnose and treat many joint injuries and disorders. By far the majority of progressive small animal surgeons have become proficient with arthroscopy but the initial learning curve is steep. At Colorado Canine Orthopedics, we have been performing arthroscopic procedures for about a decade and it is now a vital and rewarding part of our practice.

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