



San Carlos Veterinary Hospital (SCVH)
8618 Lake Murray Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92119
(619) 460-3100
www.sancarlosvet.com

- Dr. Dean R. Gahring, D.V.M.; Diplomate, ACVS
 - Dr. Bruce N. Persky, D.V.M.
 - Dr. Stanley P. Kus, M.S., D.V.M.
 - Dr. Laurel Nishida, D.V.M.
- E-mail: info@sancarlosvet.com

“Kimba” - Torn Superficial Digital Flexor (SDF) Tendon Bursa



Kimba Martinez, a 93 lb, 1-1/2 year old English Mastiff was presented to San Carlos Veterinary Hospital with lameness in her left hind leg. She was referred for a possible Achilles tendon rupture. While the entire hock (ankle) was swollen, the Achilles tendon seemed to be fine upon flexion and extension of the hock joint.

Closer scrutiny revealed that the superficial digital flexor tendon as it broadens to form a synovial bursa, and passes over the calcaneus (heel bone), was slipping off the calcaneus to the lateral side. This rare injury required surgery.

At surgery, a 1 cm. tear was discovered in the lateral supporting fascia of the superficial digital flexor tendon, allowing it to luxate (slip) laterally. This is what was causing the inflammation. The tear was cleaned and freshened and extended to about two centimeters. The tissue was then imbricated (tightened) with several interrupted Mayo-overlapping 2-0 nylon sutures. This held the superficial digital flexor tendon firmly on the calcaneus.

After surgery, a bivalved Plaster of Paris cast was applied to Kimba's leg for a period of four weeks (see below).

When the cast was removed, Kimba was able to bear 100% of her weight on the repaired leg and walked without a limp. We're all thrilled with the results!



Kimba, leg in cast after surgery