



Post-Operative Instructions: Long-bone Fracture

Summary:

Thank you for trusting your pet to our surgical care. Your pet has had general anesthesia and surgery for internal repair and fixation of a long bone fracture. This involves making an incision and dissecting the muscles to align the broken bones. Stainless steel bone implants are then used to hold the broken bones in alignment during healing. It is essential to allow your pet time to heal and to avoid re-injury during recuperation. Please strictly follow the instructions below.

Recovery Instructions:

1. Activity:

- *No running, jumping, free access to stairs, or rough playing with other pets or children.*
- Do not allow any unrestricted or off-leash activity, or free access to stairs or slippery floors.
- Restrict activity for the next 8 weeks to allow complete healing of the surgical site.
- Activity must be limited to very short leash walks three times daily for the purpose of going outside to the bathroom *only*.
- Confine your pet to an enclosed area such as a small room, dog run or dog crate. After recheck radiographs confirm adequate healing at 8 weeks postoperatively, you may gradually return your pet to full activity.

2. Incision:

- Monitor the incision daily for signs of infection such as increased redness, swelling or discharge. If you observe any of these signs or if the surgical site suddenly becomes painful to the touch please call us immediately.
- If your pet licks the incision, he/she must wear an E-collar until the staples are removed as licking can provide a source of infection.
- Keep the incision clean and dry (do not apply anything to the incision). No bathing or swimming for 14 days.

3. Medications:

- Give all medications as directed and call us if you believe your pet is having an adverse reaction to any of the prescriptions.
- If your pet loses his/her appetite, begins vomiting or develops diarrhea or dark/tarry stools please call us immediately.
- We may prescribe sedatives for your pet's safety and to assist you in enforcing exercise restriction. It is important to note that most pets will begin to use the affected limb within 2 weeks of surgery (notify us if he/she does not!) and that, in spite of this increase in comfort and use, you must continue to enforce the exercise restriction. *Explosive, off-leash behavior can be devastating to your pet and injure or tear the joint and undo the surgery.*

4. Food:

- Your pet should have access to water at all times and eat his/her normal diet.

5. Recovery:

- Your pet should show steady, continual improvement. If he/she seems lethargic, acutely painful or simply not doing well please call us immediately.

6. Recheck:

- Please schedule an appointment for suture/staple removal 10-12 days after surgery
- Radiographs (x-rays) need to be taken at 8 weeks after surgery to ensure that your pet is doing well. Please schedule an appointment for this procedure and note that there will be additional fees associated with the radiographic study. Sedation may be required so do not feed your pet before these appointments.

7. Questions:

- Our foremost interest is your pet's rapid and complete recovery: Do not hesitate to call if you have any questions or concerns.