

## Bone Biopsy Aftercare Information

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Surgery Performed: Biopsy of ( ) right ( ) left

**Convalescent period:** Your pet should be using the limb similar to how they were prior to the biopsy within a few days.

### Medications:

- ( ) **Anti-inflammatory medications:** Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAID's) include Rimadyl (Novox, Carprofen), Deramaxx, Metacam, Previcox, and others are available in either Brand name or generic forms: (tablet sizes or liquid concentrations vary depending on the product): The dose will be given in terms of the number of tablet(s), partial tablet, or volume of liquid (in mL) needed to be administered by mouth and the frequency will be noted for you (either every 12 or 24 hours) for 10-14 days as needed for pain control. These medications reduce inflammation, pain, and swelling. Do not give any other medications (particularly NOT Aspirin or steroids) with this medicine unless instructed by a veterinarian. Stop administering this medication if you notice any vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, or black tarry stool. The time of the next dose that this medication is due will be noted on your discharge instructions (\_\_\_\_\_ am/pm). Some doctors prefer that this medication is not started until your pet leaves the hospital and is eating more normally.
- ( ) Pain relieving medications: **Tramadol** 50 mg: The dose will be given in terms of the number of tablet(s) or partial tablet needed to be administered by mouth and the frequency will be noted for you (either every 8, or 12 hours) for 10-14 days as needed for pain control. This medication is an opioid and may cause sedation, mild constipation, or a decreased appetite. These side effects are related to the dose of the medication. Please call your doctor if you have concerns about any side effects. If a Fentanyl patch has been applied to your pet, this medication may not be needed until the patch has been removed, however it can be started with the Fentanyl patch at half the recommended dose (unless already at ¼ tablet dose) if needed. Please call if you have additional questions or concerns.
  - ( ) The first doses are due about 8-12 hours after removal of the Fentanyl patchOR ( ) The time of the next dose that this medication is due will be noted on your discharge instructions (\_\_\_\_\_ am/pm).
- ( ) **Other: Antibiotics** may be administered if needed, depending on the case. The dose will be given in terms of the number of tablet(s)/capsule(s) needed to be administered by mouth and the frequency will be noted for you (either every 12 or 24 hours) for the appropriate number of days. Antibiotics would be used to prevent infection or treat contamination noted at the time of surgery. Any antibiotic may cause nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. Most side effects can be minimized by administering the medication with food. The time of the next dose that this medication is due will be noted on your discharge instructions (\_\_\_\_\_ am/pm).
- ( ) Other:

**Exercise:** Limit activity to a large crate or a small room without furniture for 2 weeks (food and water can be left in these areas). Limit outdoor activity to very short leash walks for bowel and urinary purposes only for the next 2 weeks. Never leave your pet outside, or take your pet off the leash outside during the recovery period. Do not allow jumping, climbing stairs, or roughhousing with other pets or people for the full length of recovery. Strenuous activity can cause pain, cause the incision to open, and cause swelling.

- ( ) Short walks are permitted on a leash only (10 minutes maximum). Do not leave your pet off the leash or unattended outside during the time of exercise restriction

**Incision:** Please check the incision daily for signs of problems including: redness, swelling, pain, discharge, loss of sutures, or opening of the incision. Please call our office if you have concerns about the incision. Do not allow your pet to lick at the incision. Please use the Elizabethan collar from us, your regular veterinarian, or a pet supply store to prevent licking or chewing at the incision. Another option is to apply bitter apple solution to the skin around the incision several times a day to prevent licking. Your pet should return to Dr. Hodge in about 2 weeks to check the incision. There may be a small band-aid and non-stick pad covering the incision. This can be removed in 1-2 days or sooner if it falls off. It is intended to keep the incision clean while in the hospital.

- There are no external staples/sutures to be removed, but the incision should still be checked.
- There are staples/sutures that need to be removed in about 10-14 days.

For Cats:  Please do not let your pet outside during recovery.

- LITTER PAN – Use shredded paper or Yesterdays News for litter for    days/weeks.

LAB /BIOPSY RESULTS: Biopsy results should return in about 10 days time. Dr. Hodge will call you with these results, but please call if you have not heard from her in 10 days. A copy of these results will be sent to your regular veterinarian after review.

BANDAGES, AND SPLINTS – Areas surrounding splints and bandages should be checked at home twice daily for irritation, swelling, odor, loosening, or wetness/dampness and reported if found. The toes at the end of the bandage may be seen and should be checked for swelling, color changes, or discharge. Swelling would be noted by a change in color of the toes (irritation is noted as red, purple or black are not good colors and indicate immediate evaluation by a Veterinarian), discharge or wetness to the toes, or the toenails noted to be pointing away from each other (cowboy apart). Bandages, splints, and casts should be kept clean and dry by being wrapped in plastic before being taken outside (such as a plastic bag, an IV bag, Glad “press and seal” wrap over the bottom of the bandage with a secondary bag, or a commercial bootie or bandage cover which should have been sent home). The bandage should be kept uncovered at all other times. Please call if the bandage slips, gets wet, has a bad odor, the bandage seems painful, or if you have questions or concerns.

- A bandage check/change will be recommended in 5-7 days or every 10-14 days
- A bandage removal will be performed in about 2 weeks.
- The bandage may be able to be removed in 24-48 hours if it was only used for mild compression following the biopsy. If this is the case, we recommend either unwrapping each layer of the bandage by finding the ends of each layer (there is likely 3 different types of material used in the bandage) or unrolling. Bandage scissors can be used very carefully, but it would be recommended that some assistance is given if needed. Most of the time our office or your regular veterinarian will be willing to help remove these. Please call and ask for assistance if needed.

PLEASE RETURN your pet for  An incision check (suture removal) is recommended in  
10-14 days