

Fracture Repair Aftercare Information (With Bandage)

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Surgery Date: _____

Surgery Performed: Repair of () right () left _____ fracture(s)

Convalescent period: Your pet should be touching the toes to the ground at a walk within 10-14 days. From this point on, the lameness should gradually resolve. If you notice that your pet loses the ability to use the limb at any time during recovery, please give us a call.

Prognosis: By 8-10 weeks after surgery most fractures have healed, and your pet should be using the limb very well. After healing takes place your pet should be able to walk normally again. During times of weather changes or if out in the cold for a while, some pets will experience some discomfort.

Medications:

(X) Pain relieving medications: **Buprenex 0.5 mg/mL:** The dose will be given in terms of the number of mL (1 syringe full of pre-filled medication) 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. The time of the next dose that this medication is due will be noted on your discharge instructions (_____ am/pm).

(X) **Other: Antibiotics** will be used until the results of the culture return from the lab. We may either give an injection that lasts for 10-21 days or oral options may be administered, 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 treat the expected 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: As deemed necessary.

Exercise: Limit activity to a small room or dog crate for 6-8 weeks. Do not allow unrestricted jumping, climbing stairs, or roughhousing with other pets or people for 8-10 weeks. Strenuous activity can breakdown the surgical repair, preventing successful recovery.

(X) Short periods of time on a single level can be allowed with direct supervision.

(X) Please do not let your pet outside during recovery

(X) LITTER PAN: Use shredded paper or Yesterdays News for litter for the full recovery (with bandage on). If your pet will not go to the bathroom in this material, you can cover the regular litter box with a plastic bag (and place some of the shredded paper on top of the plastic to absorb urine). This will allow your pet to feel the litter under the bag and they will be more likely to use the box this way.

Incision: The incision may be covered by the bandage, but if visible please check the incision for redness, pain, swelling, or drainage.

- () 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. This can be done with the first bandage change.

(X) **Splint & Bandage Care:** Areas surrounding splints and bandages should be checked at home twice daily for areas of irritation, swelling, odor, or wetness/dampness and reported if found. Do not allow your pet to lick or chew at the bandage. If this occurs please obtain an Elizabethan collar from us, your regular veterinarian, or a pet supply store. Another option is to place a sock or bitter apple solution on the bandage. Please call if the bandage slips, gets wet, if your pet stops using the leg with the cast, or if you have questions or concerns.

- (X) Bandage check/change in 10-14 days
- (X) Bandage removal in (6-8) weeks
- (X) Bandage changes will be needed every 10-14 days until removed.

Nausea is common following General Anesthesia, in case of nausea:

- **FOOD AND WATER:** Large intakes of food and water following a hospital visit are common due to the excitement of returning home. This type of vomiting can often be eliminated by not allowing access to food or water for 2 hours after returning home.
 - o A bland/special diet may be recommended, the length of time will depend on the type of surgery that has been performed. For orthopedic or neurologic surgery the bland diet may only be needed for a few days, following intestinal surgery, the special diet may be needed for up to a couple of weeks.
 - o Following any nausea or intestinal surgery, food and water is recommended in small amounts every 4-6 hours for a few days, then the volume can be increased and the frequency of meal feedings can be decreased to what is more normal.

A bland diet such as Eukanuba Low Residue, Hill's I/D, or Royal Canine Intestinal diets can be purchased or a home-made diet can be made with a 50:50 mixture of a cooked protein source such as hamburger, turkey, chicken, or cottage cheese (all fat removed) combined with a carbohydrate source such as rice, pasta, or mashed potato. We recommend gradually mixing the regular diet into this bland diet during the first week home.

PLEASE RETURN your pet for (X) Incision check (suture/staple removal) in 10-14 days
(x) Re-examination every 2 weeks with the bandage change.
(X) Follow-up X-ray 6-8 weeks.

(X) Additional Information for the Future: Following some fracture repairs, the implants placed in some patients may need to be removed in the future (either because they loosen, become exposed through the skin, are infected, or cause some irritation). This is an easy, out-patient procedure and may be needed 6-12 months following surgery. The implants do not cause any problems in some patients and may not need to be removed. Recovery following this procedure is minimal (4 weeks to allow the incision to heal and screw holes to fill in).