



Post-operative Instructions: Fracture Repair

Thank you for trusting your pet to our surgical care. Your pet has had general anesthesia and surgery for a fracture. It is essential to allow your pet time to heal and to avoid re-injury during recuperation.

Please strictly follow the instructions below.

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 6 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 when you are not home or when you are sleeping for the next 6-weeks.

2. Bandage: NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY IF ANY OF THESE SIGNS SHOULD ARISE.

- Monitor the bandage daily for signs of wetness, fraying, damage, etc. If you observe any of these signs or if the limb suddenly becomes painful to the touch, please call us immediately.
- Check your pet's toes daily. Notify us immediately if the toes are no longer visible, or if the toes have swollen outside of the bandage.
- **Your pet must wear an E-collar until the sutures are removed in approximately 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!). 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 always have access to water and should be offered 1/3 less their normal amount of food during their recovery.

5. Recovery:

- **Common side-effects of general anesthesia include constipation, decreased urine output, decreased appetite and/or thirst. Increased vocalization due to disorientation, a lack of coordination, and**



drowsiness is also possible. Your pet may experience some or all of these side effects. These effects pass relatively quickly, and your pet should appear at least mostly normal to you within the next 24-72 hours after surgery.

- 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 bandage change in 5-7 days, sooner if there are any issues.

7. Questions:

- Our foremost interest is your pet's rapid and complete recovery: Please do not hesitate to call VOC at 219.922.6000 if you have any questions or concerns.

****In case of an emergency, call North Central ER at (219)881-1600, or your closest emergency clinic.**

We offer this information as a complement to the specific verbal and written instructions that our staff may have discussed with you during consultation or your discharge appointment. It is intended to provide helpful guidelines for caring for your pet at home and is not meant to be an exhaustive list of all possible post-surgical orders or potential complications. As always, we rely on you to call if you have any questions or concerns regarding your pet's recovery and post-operative care.