



Post-Operative Instructions: Total Hip Replacement

Thank you for trusting your pet to our surgical care. Your pet has had general anesthesia and surgery for Total Hip Replacement.

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 (5 – 10 minutes) three times daily for the purpose of going outside to the bathroom only, please make sure to use a sling.
- 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. After the 6-week recheck, you may gradually return him to full activity.

2. Incision:

- Please gently remove white bandage after 1 day.
- 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.
- **It is normal for there to be bruising around the incision and swelling near the ankle. If you notice bruising, increase the number of times you are icing daily. If the ankle is swollen, please use a warm compress two to three times daily for 5-10 minutes and massage that area afterwards.**
- Ice the surgical site to decrease the amount of inflammation in the area.
- Your pet must wear an E-collar until the sutures 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 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 is not!) but, 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 eat 1/3 less their normal diet during recovery.

5. Recovery:

- Your pet should show steady, continual improvement. If he seems lethargic, acutely painful or simply not doing well please call us immediately.
- He/she should progressively improve their ability to walk on the operated limb. Many patients will not walk on the limb initially but begin to walk on it over the next several weeks. If he/she is not touching the leg down and using it within 10 days of surgery, please call us.

6. Recheck:

- Please schedule an appointment for suture removal 10-14 days after surgery

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 Stryder 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 Stryder's recovery and post-operative care.