

GENERAL POST OP FRACTURE REPAIR NOTES - DOGS

Your pet has had their fractured bone repaired using metal implants

All regular **post op checks** can be carried out by your own vet – usually a 3 day post op check + the stitches out in 10-14 days. Any swelling or excess fluid coming from the wound, or discomfort or change in your dog's general condition should be examined quickly by your own vet first. Your dog will have a course of Antibiotics + anti inflammatory drugs – please ensure you complete the whole course + inform your vet if there are any problems

Bandages – Must be kept clean + dry – any wetness/soiling will encourage infection + can cause the bandage to tighten + will constrict the limb underneath – both of these can be very serious if left unchecked –so if this occurs your dog must be taken to your vets to change the bandage as soon as possible. You should be supplied with a thick plastic foot bag that should be worn when they go outside but this must not be left on more than required as will get sweaty + will wet the bandage .

Medications –

Antibiotics – please ensure your pet finishes the whole course –

Pain killers – can obtain more if required from your own vet –

Mr Whiting would like to **Re examine your dog usually in 4-6weeks** post surgery - please ring the St Columb surgery for an appointment.

The bone will develop a fibrous callus between 2-4 weeks, which will gradually harden to form solid bone. The bone should be functionally healed in approx 6 -8 weeks

Your dog will need to be kept restricted/under strict control as much as possible during the 6 – 8 week healing period

Ideally your dog should be kept in a kennel/crate with enough room for food + water bowls + a big enough bed for them to fully stretch out on for the healing period whilst not under strict supervision

However if your dog is very young/active/ very large this may be a difficult thing for him/her to adjust to, sometimes a small room, void of furniture to jump on/off, again with room for the above necessities may suit him/her or a cordoned off corner of a room.

Hydrotherapy can be started after the surgical incision has fully healed – this improves movement + muscle re building - this may require a written request off the vet

If not kept restricted the extra forces on the healing bone + implants will cause extended healing times, possible implant failure or further fractures so although it may seem a bit extreme it is very important

Some stress busters for your dog –

Put their favourite bed/blanket in kennel/confined area to snuggle into + feel super comfy

Keep the crate/confined area in a busy room – so they can see what's going on + don't feel too isolated it helps keep them distracted + occupied watching all that's going on

When they are out of their kennel they must always be under strict control on a collar/harness + lead – never let go of the lead for a moment as they will know + be off like a shot!! They can come out + have a fuss/cuddle + sit with you and have a wander around the house + obviously out in the garden for toilet breaks (avoid stairs + jumping) and care with interaction with other pets as becomes very excited + try to play/gets tangled up. If you have a lot of wooden floors then place non slip mats down to give them a stable surface to walk on + avoid slipping/falling

Break up meal times from once/twice daily to 3-4 times daily + different food/treats (care with weight gain/stomach upsets) or even new toys (possibly with treats in) to break up their time - as long as not too over exuberant at playing/ getting to food with their injured limb

If home alone for long period of times then leave radio/TV on to distract

In short try to keep them calm/settled + give them lots of attention whilst their fracture heals

For the first week your dog should be kept as restricted as possible with only short 5-10 min lead walks into garden to toilet only + around the room if getting restless.

Walk as slow as possible when exercising so they put the leg to the ground + use it as normally as possible this keeps muscles + joints moving + stops them seizing up