



Take Home Instructions

Femoral Fracture

Your pet suffered a fracture of the femur. This is a severe injury that has been repaired with strong metallic implants.

Instructions:

1. The femur has been repaired with stainless steel implants. These implants will hold the bone in its correct anatomical position until the fracture has healed. This process will take approximately 8 weeks. During this period if your pet is over active the fixation may fail and could require additional surgery to repair.
2. Exercise restriction is very important during the healing process. There should be no running, jumping, playing etc. Your pet should be confined to a small room (no furniture to jump on and off) or a crate when unsupervised. When you can supervise your pet's activity it may be out with you. You should take your pet outside to the bathroom on a leash and back in the house. It is best to use a sling to help protect the leg during the first weeks of healing
3. Monitor the incision for redness, oozing, swelling or pain. These can be signs of infection and we should be notified immediately.
4. The staples should be removed in 10-14 days. This may be done here or at your veterinarian. If you wish to have it done here please call to schedule an appointment.
5. Your pet should begin to use the leg by the second week after surgery and gradually become more sound over the course of the healing period (8 weeks). As the leg gains strength and comfort you should increase the length of walks for elimination. If your pet does not progress or if your pet is doing well and becomes acutely painful or lame we should be notified immediately.
6. We need to recheck your pet at any point if it is not progressing. If everything is going well we need to see them for a recheck and possible x-rays in 3 weeks to assess healing. Please call to schedule an appointment.
7. Rarely do implants need to be removed but there are cases that do require another surgery to remove the implant. The reasons for removing an implant is pain, migration or infection.

Please feel free to call with any questions or concerns.

