

## Discharge Instructions for Angular Limb Deformity Correction



Your pet has had surgery to repair the abnormal angle in his/her leg. We applied an external fixator with pins going through the skin into the bone. It will hold the bone together while the bone heals. It is very important postoperatively to keep your pet quiet for the next 6 weeks. If your pet is allowed to run, jump, or play, the fixation can fail and we will need to go back to surgery. Please also feel free to check our website for further information:

<http://www.aspenmeadowvet.com/education.html>

Please refer to the instructions below:

We have placed a bandage over the fixator to keep swelling down and protect the surgical site. Please evaluate the bandage and surgical site daily for any odor, redness, swelling, or drainage. Please evaluate the toes within the bandage for swelling, cool temperature, or redness. If you observe any of these, please contact us or your regular veterinarian.

**Daily Lengthening:** You will need to twist the 3 cube nuts in the top of the fixator every 12 hrs. Please turn the bolts 1/2 of a rotation each time. It is very important to do this every 12 hrs, every day. Missing a day can cause the bone to stop distracting and necessitate further surgery. We will need to do weekly rechecks to do a physical exam, inspect the fixator and make sure the leg is distracting correctly. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact us.

**MEDICATIONS:** We may have prescribed medications for pain relief and to prevent an infection. Please follow the instructions below. No other medications, including aspirin or aspirin like drugs, should be given. Serious complications may occur. Please check daily to be sure that normal eating and drinking is occurring. If you think you need more pain medication, please contact us or your regular veterinarian.

SIDE EFFECTS of these medications are uncommon, but please watch carefully for the following: vomiting, diarrhea, blood in the stool, not eating or drinking, constipation, lethargy, or nausea. If you observe any of these please contact us and discontinue the medications. Most commonly NSAIDs are used as a postoperative pain medication - please check our website at <http://www.aspenmeadowvet.com/education/nsaids.html> for further important information.

### **POSTOPERATIVE REHABILITATION:**

**0-2 weeks postoperatively:** No exercise. No running, jumping playing or twisting motions. Please confine your pet to a small area or airline crate to prevent running, jumping, playing or twisting motions. Use a 5 ft leash to walk for 5 minutes to urinate and defecate. Watch the incision for redness, swelling, or drainage. If any are observed contact us or your regular veterinarian. Also, if you notice that your pet's lameness or pain is worsening, contact us or your regular veterinarian.

**2 weeks postoperatively:** Recheck. We would like to do a physical exam, answer any questions regarding your pet's postoperative care, as well as remove the stitches or staples in her skin.

2-6 weeks postoperatively: Continue with no exercise. No running, jumping, or playing. You can allow your pet a slow controlled walk up or down stairs. Please confine your pet to a small area or airline crate if unsupervised. Use a 5ft leash to walk your pet for 5 minutes to urinate and defecate.

6 weeks postoperatively: Recheck. We would like to do a physical exam, answer any questions, assess your pet's recovery, and take x-rays to assess healing of the surgery site. After we confirm that the bone is healing properly, you may begin increasing your pet's activity level as per the instructions below.

Again, if at any time you observe more severe lameness, soreness, limping, pain, holding the leg up, or not using the leg, please contact us or your regular veterinarian. Please be sure to perform the 1/2 full rotation of the 3 top bolts every 12 hrs.

Thank you for the opportunity to take care of your family member. We love what we do, and to us, having the opportunity to improve an animal's life is what it is all about. If we can do anything for you or your pet please do not hesitate to contact us. Also, if you have any ideas or comments on how we can improve our care, please let us know. Again, thank you.

Sincerely,

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