



Post-operative care for patients after fracture fixation surgery

Fractures are fixed with a range of metal work, often in combination, including pins, wires, conventional bone plates, screws, and more recently locking plates.

Medication:	Antibiotics:	We usually dispense antibiotics like claviseptin (tablets given twice daily).
	Anti-inflammatories:	We are likely to have dispensed carprofen (tablets given twice daily), or meloxicam (a liquid given once daily). These are given with food. They occasionally cause vomiting or diarrhoea, in which case prompt advice should be sought. There are a number of other excellent anti-inflammatory drugs that your own vet might use including Onsior and Previcox.
	Analgesics:	We may have dispensed tramadol (tablets given twice daily) for dogs or buprenorphine (liquid given every 8 hours by mouth) for cats.

Wounds must not be interfered with or bathed. An Elizabethan collar can help prevent interference with wounds. Any ooze may be gently blotted from the wound with kitchen towel, but if ooze is seen, advice should be sought.

Rechecks a few days after surgery may be with your own vet to save un-necessary travelling. We could do this check-up if travelling is not an issue, and all our post-op check-ups are free of charge under our “fixed price” schemes. Please contact us to book an appointment for us to see the case back 2-3 weeks post-operatively when we can remove sutures/staples and check that all is going to plan.

Dressings may be used post-operatively to help control swelling. These should be kept dry at all times. If they do become significantly wet, or if they slip, please seek advice promptly. Leave the Primapore to fall off on its own.

Strict restriction and supervision of activity is required. When cats or dogs don't have your UNDIVIDED attention, consider confining them to a cage during the early stages of healing. Cages which will fold flat when not in use are readily available from pet superstores, Argos, many DIY stores or from on-line retailers. For cats, several short periods of supervised walking around the kitchen are allowed each day. For dogs, a lead should be used to restrict activity anywhere outside of the house including the garden. Allow just 5 minutes of lead restricted exercise, three times a day, until you are advised to the contrary. For both species, running/jumping/climbing (into cars, upstairs, onto furniture, onto kitchen work tops etc) should be prevented. Consider using stair gates and ramps, and ensure doors and windows are shut to avoid escapes!

Immediately post op

Your pet can be allowed to eat and drink on the evening after surgery. Eating, drinking and urination should have been seen on the morning after surgery – if not, please call us without delay. Please note that there is sometimes no defaecation for several days.

Physiotherapy and hydrotherapy

Encouraging gentle walking is helpful – putting water/food bowls on the other side of the room from your pet's bed can encourage them to rise and stretch periodically. Passive flexion / extension exercises help maintain flexibility and joint motion. Hydrotherapy can help maintain the range of joint motion and muscle mass but this is delayed until 3-4 weeks post-operatively when the wound can stand immersion. We only recommend the use of a hydrotherapy centre that is approved by the Canine Hydrotherapy Association.

Follow up radiography

X-rays are typically taken at 6-8 weeks under sedation to confirm bone healing before free exercise is allowed.

What does the future hold?

The future is usually very bright after fracture repair. Implants usually don't need removal.

If joints were involved in the original fracture, degenerative joint disease, often called “arthritis”, may develop in the future. Your own vet will advise you of what, if any, action is required.

Complications

Infection is uncommon, but it does occasionally happen and usually requires removal of the metalwork. Implant related irritation is occasionally seen. Implants may work loose in time and need removal. Sometimes implants positioned low down in the limbs can ache in cold weather and this occasionally proves problematic enough to justify implant removal.

Our fixed prices include any follow up consults and x-rays done with us, but don't include further medication or revision surgery. For further details please see www.wm-referrals.com, “about us”, “FAQs”

For further advice please contact us by phone on 07944 105501 or at mail@wm-referrals.com. Consider texting/emailing pictures.