

## **Post operative care after fracture repair**

### **Exercise Restrictions**

Leash walk to urinate and defecate until radiographs have been made that show adequate fracture healing. We generally recommend an x-ray be taken at 8 weeks.

The first 4-6 weeks are critical: it is imperative **that no off leash activity is allowed.** Try to restrict your pet to a crate, pen or small area within the house. Try to avoid allowing him/her unrestricted access to places where he/she may slip or fall (stairs, slippery floors). You may need to support your pet with a rolled up towel slung in-front of the hind legs, as you are walking him/her. Provide a non-slip surface for your pet to walk on. Remember that your pet will probably want to use the leg more than they should, especially at around 1-2 weeks after surgery. The repair should withstand controlled walking on the leg, but only to go to the bathroom. Generally after 6 weeks it is safe to let your pet walk on leash for 5-15minutes. It is highly recommended that you make an appointment after surgery for sedation and x-rays, the recommended time for x-rays is written on separate discharge instructions. Because your pet may need to be sedated for this procedure, do not feed him/her after 10pm the night before, water is OK. Allow up to 2 hrs for the recheck X ray.

### **Wound care**

The incision and associated surgery site may become very swollen over the next few days. Some of the swelling may move down the leg, which is normal. In addition you will notice bruising that may become very dark red, and spreads out away from the skin incision. All this is normal. You should become concerned that your pet may have an infection IF:

A: the wound becomes very swollen or discharges a yellow or green material

B: your dog suddenly stops using the leg or becomes very depressed or lethargic.

If these signs occur, you should contact us at 813 901 5100

Sometimes the wound will ooze some blood during the first 24-48 hours at home. You should not be alarmed at this; you can hold a cotton sponge over it for 5-10 minutes to stop the bleeding. If necessary you can clean the wound with cotton sponges and warm water, or even a little hydrogen peroxide at the skin edges, being careful not to get it in the wound which can cause some minor irritation.