Boulevard Animal Hospital

Post-Operative Care Instructions for Orthopedic Fracture Surgery

Dear Pet Owner,

Thank you for trusting Boulevard Animal Hospital with your pet’s orthopedic care. Orthopedic fractures require careful monitoring and management during recovery to ensure proper healing and a successful outcome. Please follow these post-operative care instructions carefully. If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to reach out to us at [Insert Clinic Phone Number] or visit us at Boulevard Animal Hospital.

1. General Care

- Rest and Restricted Activity: Rest is essential for your pet’s recovery. Limit activity to prevent strain on the fractured limb. Keep your pet in a quiet area where they can rest comfortably.

- For dogs: Use a crate or a small room to prevent excessive movement.

- For cats: Confine your pet to a small room or crate to prevent jumping and running.

- No Running or Jumping: Keep your pet from running, jumping, or climbing stairs for at least 6-8 weeks (depending on the nature of the fracture and your veterinarian’s advice). Sudden movements can cause the fracture to shift and delay healing.

2. Incision Care

- Check the Surgical Site: Check the incision site daily for signs of infection such as redness, swelling, warmth, or discharge. Some bruising or swelling is normal in the first few days.

- Keep it Clean and Dry: Do not allow your pet to get the incision area wet until your veterinarian advises. This includes avoiding baths and swimming.

- Prevent Licking or Chewing: If your pet is licking, chewing, or scratching the surgical site, an Elizabethan collar (E-collar) may be required to protect the incision.

3. Bandage Care (if applicable)

- Keep Bandages Dry: If your pet has a bandage, ensure it stays dry and clean. Check it regularly for tightness or any signs of slipping. If the bandage becomes wet or dirty, contact the clinic for a bandage change.

- Signs of Problems: If the bandage is too tight, you may notice swelling above or below the bandage. If it is too loose, the fracture may not be immobilized properly. Contact us immediately if you notice any issues.

4. Medications

- Pain Relief: Administer any prescribed pain medications as directed by your veterinarian. Pain management is crucial for your pet's comfort and recovery.

- Antibiotics: If your pet has been prescribed antibiotics, ensure that they complete the full course to prevent infection.

- Avoid Human Medications: Never give your pet any human medications (e.g., aspirin, ibuprofen, etc.) as they can be toxic.

5. Feeding and Hydration

- Diet: Your pet’s appetite may be reduced for the first 24-48 hours following surgery. You can offer a bland diet such as boiled chicken or rice if they are reluctant to eat. Gradually return to their normal food once they begin eating again.

- Hydration: Ensure your pet has access to fresh water at all times. If your pet is not drinking, offer small amounts of water using a syringe or spoon to encourage hydration.

6. Activity Restrictions

- Leash Walks for Dogs: For dogs, restrict activity to short leash walks for bathroom breaks only. Do not allow your dog to run or play during recovery. You should also avoid excessive movement of the injured limb.

- No Climbing or Jumping for Cats: For cats, prevent climbing, jumping, or running for the full duration of recovery. You may need to place their food and water bowls in a low location to prevent them from jumping up to reach them.

- Monitor for Signs of Overexertion: Watch for signs of excessive activity or discomfort, including panting, limping, or inability to settle down. If this occurs, restrict activity further and contact us for advice.

7. Follow-Up Appointments

- X-Rays: Your veterinarian will schedule follow-up appointments to monitor your pet’s progress. Typically, X-rays will be taken at 4-6 weeks post-surgery to assess healing and ensure the fracture is properly aligned.

- Suture or Staple Removal: If your pet had external sutures or staples, a follow-up appointment will be needed for removal, usually 10-14 days post-surgery.

- Physical Therapy (if recommended): Depending on the severity of the fracture and surgery, physical therapy may be recommended to help restore full function of the limb. Your veterinarian will provide specific instructions if this is necessary.

8. When to Contact Us

Please contact us immediately if your pet exhibits any of the following:

- Excessive Pain: Severe or increasing pain (whining, trembling, or reluctance to move).

- Incision Issues: Redness, swelling, or discharge from the incision site, or if the incision opens up.

- Swelling or Changes in the Fracture Site: Significant swelling above or below the bandage or if the fractured limb appears misaligned.

- Loss of Appetite: Vomiting, diarrhea, or refusal to eat or drink for more than 24 hours.

- Behavioral Changes: Lethargy, difficulty walking or standing, or unusual behavior.

- Changes in Bandage: If the bandage becomes wet, loose, or shows signs of slipping.

Contact Information

If you have any questions or concerns during your cat's recovery, please don’t hesitate to -

Contact us

Phone: (562)-633-6514

Address: 2139 E. Artesia Blvd Long Beach, 90805

Website: bahlb.com

Telemedicine - Need to contact us after clinic hours? Our doctors may be available for immediate consults on Hubavet. Download Hubavet on the App Store or Google Play to chat with a doctor immediately.

Thank you for trusting us with your pet’s orthopedic care. We are committed to helping your pet heal fully and return to their normal activities as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Boulevard Animal Hospital Team