

## Discharge Instructions – Angular Limb Correction (Dog) with Cast Support

**Surgery:** The angular limb deformity of the forelimb was corrected by cutting the radius and ulna bones. The cut in the radius bone was stabilized with a bone plate and screws.

**Prognosis:** Your pet has a good chance to make a full recovery.

**Convalescent period:** Weight bearing is typically seen within the first week after surgery. By 2 to 3 months after the surgery the lameness should have resolved. Please give us a call if your companion stops using the operated limb.

**Diet:** If your companion will not eat the regular diet, a homemade bland diet (50:50 mix of lean hamburger, chicken breast, lean turkey meat and a carbohydrate source such as rice, potato, or pasta) should be offered for 3 days and then wean back onto the regular diet over the next three days.

**Bowel movements:** Your companion may not have a bowel movement for the next 4 days after surgery. If your companion does not have a bowel movement after 4 days or is straining to defecate, constipation may be present. Unflavored Metamucil or Miralax at a dose of 1 teaspoon/50 lbs body weight can be mixed in canned food (in each meal) as a laxative. If this treatment is not effective, other laxatives can be prescribed.

**Exercise:**

1. Cover all slippery floors with throw rugs or indoor/outdoor turf carpet for the first 8 weeks after surgery.
2. Limit activity to very short leash walks for bowel and urinary purposes until the bone is healed (typically 8 weeks). Do not leave your companion off the leash for 3 months or as recommended by the surgeon. No jumping, climbing stairs or rough-housing with other pets or people. Strenuous activity may result in failure of the surgical implants to hold the fracture together.

**Cast with inner padding bandage:**

1. The cast will support the limb during the healing process. We estimate that the limb will need to be supported for a total of xxx weeks.
2. Please check for the following warning signs of a problem that needs immediate attention by us or your primary care veterinarian:
  - **Paw swelling**, if significant can cause the circulation to be cut off from the paw and death of the paw tissues. Please check to make sure that the two middle toenails are touching each other; if they are, the paw is not swollen.
  - **Cold toes** may indicate poor circulation of the paw. Put your pinky finger in the end of the cast and make sure that the toes are warm.
  - **A pet chewing or licking** at the cast may indicate that there are pressure sores
  - **A foul odor from the bandage** may indicate an infection
  - **Blood or discharge staining through the cast** may indicate a pressure sore or infection
  - **Sudden worsening lameness** of the casted limb

**Please call us if any of these problems are noted.**

**Incision:** After the cast is removed, please check the incision for signs of infection: redness, swelling, pain or discharge and call if these are noted.

**Follow-up examinations:**

1. The padding material on the inside of the cast will need to be changed at least every 2 weeks; the cast is likely a clam shell and this part will be reused during the entire period of casting unless it gets worn. If sores develop on the casted paw, cast changes will need to be done more frequently (as determined by the doctor). Please make an appointment for the next cast change with your primary care veterinarian or at Animal Surgical Center of Michigan in 2 weeks.
2. Radiographs (x-ray) of the operated limb should be done in 8 weeks to check the healing process at Animal Surgical Center of Michigan.
  - Please schedule your appointments ahead of time, as our schedule fills quickly

IV catheter bandage: Your companion had an intravenous catheter for the administration of IV fluids during anesthesia. The catheter has been removed and a small bandage has been placed over the site (typically on the lower part of a front or hind limb) to prevent bleeding. Please remove this bandage when you arrive home.

Implant removal: If the metal is irritating the tissues or a chronic infection develops or your pet is cold sensitive in the winter time, the metal plate and screws can be removed.

Medications: A pain management protocol has been prescribed which should be very effective. If your pet seems to be uncomfortable (whining, restless), the most common cause for this is that your pet needs to urinate. Take your pet outdoors to eliminate. If your pet still seems painful, please give us a call.

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