

Surgery: Fracture repair of a distal femoral fracture (xxx side)

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 months after the surgery the lameness should be mild or 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, Gerber baby food such as strained chicken or beef, canned tuna, canned gourmet cat food 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 $\frac{1}{4}$ of a teaspoon, 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. For the first 8 weeks after surgery, keep your pet confined to a small room that has no elevated surfaces to jump on. Cover all slippery floors in this room with throw rugs or indoor/outdoor turf carpet for the first 8 weeks after surgery. If this is not possible, put your pet in a large cage with the cat litter box within the cage. Do not provide knitted blankets that could entrap the toenails of the operated limb, and potentially injure the repaired fractured bone.
2. Strenuous activity may result in failure of the surgical implants to hold the fracture together.

Rehabilitation therapy:

1. Cold compresses should be applied to the surgical incision 20 minutes per session, three times daily and a range of motion exercises should be done for about 3 days after surgery.
2. Passive range of motion (PROM) exercises should be started on the 4th day after surgery. This is done by flexing and extending the hip, knee and ankle of the operated limb three sessions daily for five minutes each time (do this after each warm packing session). When flexing the knee, the tip of the heel should touch the rump. Continue range of motion exercises for three weeks or until your companion is walking well on the limb and you have achieved normal range of motion of the knee.
3. Some cats do not tolerate PROM and distraction by feeding cat treats may be needed during this activity.
4. Professional rehabilitation therapy can provide an optimal recovery and your primary care or we can provide names of therapists closest to your home.

Incision:

1. When the incision is exposed, daily, check the incision for signs of infection: redness, swelling, pain or discharge. If a band aid is covering the incision, please remove it tomorrow.
2. Do not allow licking of the incision as this could cause an infection or open the incision. An Elizabethan collar obtained from us or a pet store, should be kept on your companion for 2 weeks to prevent licking of the incision.

Follow-up examinations:

1. The first appointment at 2 weeks after surgery will be via Telemedicine. Please send us a photo of the incision and a video of your pet walking; send these to your pet's surgeon's email or cell phone number.
2. Radiographs (x-ray) of the repaired fracture site should be done in 8 weeks to check the healing process. Please fast your pet starting at 10 PM, the night before the appointment, as sedation may be needed. Please set up this appointment today, as we have a very busy outpatient schedule.

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.

Medications: A pain management protocol has been prescribed which should be very effective. If your pet seems to be uncomfortable, provide the pain medications as prescribed below. If your pet still seems painful, please give us a call.

