

Discharge Instructions – Metabone Fracture Repair (Cat) with Splint/Cast

Surgery: Fracture repair of metabones and application of a cast or splint

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 ¼ 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.

Provide a litter pan with a low entry to minimize pain when entering the litter pan. Pain associated with entering a litter pan can cause a cat to refuse using a litter pan and may result in long-term inappropriate eliminations around the house.

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 limbs, and potentially injure the repaired fractured bone.
2. 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: You will not be able to see the incision, as the cast will be covering it.

Rehabilitation therapy: After the bandage has been removed, rehabilitation therapy program can begin at home. Please note that some cats are completely intolerant of rehabilitation therapy

and some or all therapy may not be possible. Do as best as you can with completing rehabilitation therapy if possible. The following exercises should be done for xxx weeks after the splint has been removed; please note this may change, pending the progress of the recovery in the postop period.

1. Three steps are completed during each rehabilitation therapy session: warm compressing, passive range of motion exercises followed by cold compress.
 - a. Apply a warm compress (warm water bottle, microwaved raw rice in a cloth bag) to the surgical site three times daily, ten minutes each time. Monitor the temperature of the compress so that it does not burn the skin. Place a thin towel between the warm compress and the surgical site for patient comfort. This step helps to loosen connective tissue in preparation for passive range of motion exercises.
 - b. Passive range of motion exercises should be done after application of the warm compress. Passive range of motion exercises are done by flexing and extending the hip, stifle and hock (ankle) joints three sessions daily for five minutes. This step helps to break down adhesions and scar tissue so that your pet will attain normal or near normal range of motion. Massage the muscles of the hind limb. This can be done after the passive range of motion session.
 - c. After the range of motion exercises, apply a cold compress to the surgical site for five minutes. This step reduces inflammation.

NOTE: If possible, we also recommend rehabilitation therapy at by a professional rehabilitation therapist or your primary care veterinarian's choice, which can start in 2 weeks after surgery.

Follow-up examinations:

1. The first appointment at 2 weeks after surgery will be in our hospital to have a splint change. Please set up this appointment today, as we have a very busy outpatient schedule.
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.