

_____ Week Recheck – Tarsal Arthrodesis (Dog)

Patient: _____

Date: _____

Incision

- Not applicable
- The skin incision has healed and no additional treatment is needed.
- The incision is irritated because your pet has been licking the site.
- The following is recommended:
 - Apply Neosporin Plus Pain control two to three times daily to the incision or irritated skin for 7 to 10 days.
 - Apply Bitter Apple solution (available at pet stores) around the incision twice daily for 7 days.
 - Keep an Elizabethan collar on your pet until the incision has healed (inflatable collars may be available at Pet Smart or your primary care veterinarian).

Exercise

- A quick-lift sling should be used when going up or down stairs or if your pet needs assistance to walk.
- A leash must be kept on your companion whenever going outdoors.
- Swimming is encouraged (10 minutes, 2 to 4 times daily).
- Ten-minute slow walks are permitted 3 times daily until the next recheck (in 6 weeks from now).
- Jumping, running, unattended stair climbing and playing with other pets are not permitted.

Rehabilitation

- No rehabilitation is needed as the forelimb should have continued splinting for another _____ weeks. Please continue cast care and monitoring of the limb to make sure that there are no issues (as described in your previous discharge instructions). Please return to us in _____ weeks to have the splint changed.
- Range of motion exercises should be performed twice daily for 6 weeks. This involves fully extending, flexing the elbow and shoulder. Hold the joints in maximal flexion, extension for 3 seconds in each position. Twenty repetitions should be done during each session. Cold/warm therapy is no longer needed.
- We recommend rehabilitation therapy by a professional therapist.

Medication and Diet

- NSAID (_____ mg tablets): give _____ tab every _____ hours for _____ weeks.
- Tramadol 50 mg: give _____ tablet(s) every _____ hours for _____ weeks.
- Dasuquin or Cosequin, as directed on the bottle.

Summary

- The healing of the tibia is progressing normally.
- The healing of the tibia is progressing slower than normal.

Next recheck evaluation

Please make an appointment to have an evaluation and x-rays in 6 weeks from now.