

Fracture Repair

Your pet has had a surgical fracture repair to stabilise their broken bone(s). It is vital that you closely follow the post operative care instructions in order to have the best chance of a good outcome following surgery.

Surgical Wound:

Your pet will have a surgical wound. Please check this area twice daily and report any swelling, redness or discharge from the wound to your vet immediately.



Medication:

Your pet will be prescribed pain relief and may also be prescribed antibiotics. It is important to follow the instructions to avoid any complications. Please report any changes in demeanour, vomiting or diarrhoea to your vet.

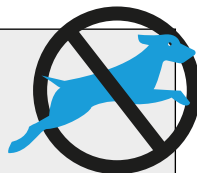


Exercise restriction:

Strict rest for six weeks is essential for uncomplicated bone healing.

This means confinement to a cage or room with no furniture to jump on and off, especially when your pet is unsupervised. Stairs should be avoided and toileting should always be on a lead.

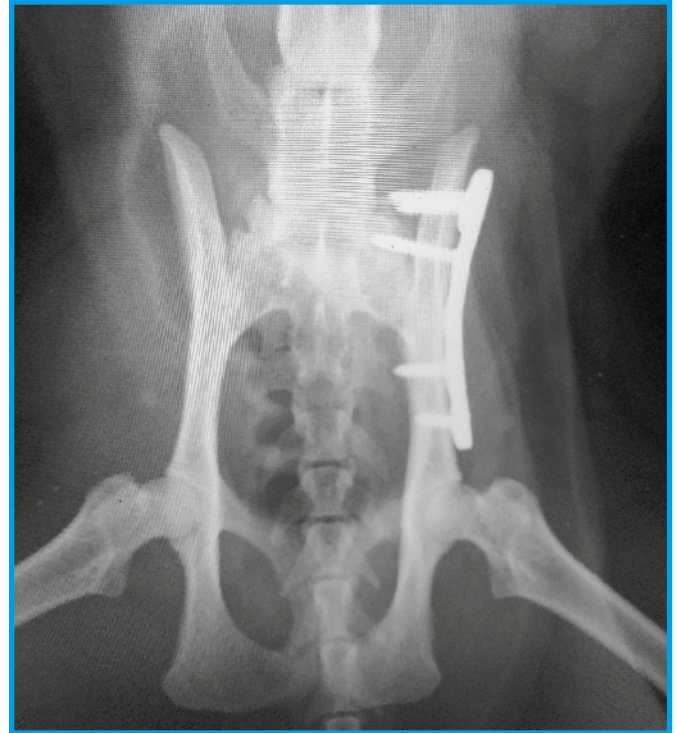
For cats, this will mean confinement to a roomy travel cage for 6 weeks. Your pet can come out of the cage for a cuddle, but must not walk around or run or jump.



Cold & Warm Therapy:

For 3 days post operatively – use an ice pack wrapped in a towel applied to the outside of the joint (not directly over the wound) for 5-10 mins 2-3 times daily.

Some swelling of the operated leg is to be expected and cold therapy and gentle massage from the toes up towards the stifle will reduce this



Introducing Exercise:

X-rays will be taken at 6 weeks post-operatively to check the implants and boney healing. If there are no concerns then your pet will be allowed to gradually return back to exercise. Dogs can begin lead walking for 5 minutes twice daily, and add 5 minutes to walk length per week until they are comfortable on 30 minutes at which time they can have off lead time. Cats will be allowed increasing freedom inside the house until 12 weeks post-operatively at which point they can have access outdoors.



Outcome

In the majority of cases patients will be able to return to their usual activity levels. In most cases, internal implants that may have been used for fracture fixation will not need removal. However, occasionally implant may need removing under a short anaesthetic if the patient is young and leaving the implants in situ may affect bone growth, if there is evidence of infection, or if a pin or screw loosens.



Complications

Complications can occur with any surgery. Infection can occur despite the use of antibiotics and sterile techniques and usually means that the implants will need to be removed after the bone has healed.