

Aftercare of your Cat Following ESF Fracture Repair

Patients name:

Primary-care Vet:

The following medications have been dispensed for your cat. Please ensure **all doses** are given. If you are having difficulty administering medications or your cat develops diarrhoea or vomiting please contact your veterinarian **immediately**.

Medication:

Dosage:

When to start:

Antibiotic:.....Givedaily fordays

NSAID:Givedaily fordays

Opioid:Givedaily fordays

Other:Givedaily fordays

Key Points for Aftercare:

The operation site will have been clipped (other sites may also have been clipped for administering drugs and fluids etc). Avoid your cat interfering with the surgical (and other clipped) site/s. Dressings are typically in place following surgery; these are usually removed (or replaced) after several days. Some cats need to wear an Elizabethan protective collar to prevent attention to the stitches or dressings. If necessary, this should stay in place until the dressings/stitches are removed. It is important your cat **not be allowed** to lick the surgical wound, as this may introduce infection.

Your cat should be kept confined to restrict activity (ideally to a large cage with sufficient room for a litter tray, bedding, food and water bowls). Running and particularly **jumping** must be avoided at all times. Confinement should be maintained **at all times** until follow up radiographs have been obtained, the ESF frame removed and/or your Vet has specifically indicated that confinement may cease.

Some swelling of the operated limb in the days following surgery is normal. **Ice packs** for 10 to 15 minutes several times daily **are recommended** in the first few days following bandage removal to reduce swelling and improve comfort.

If the surgical / pin sites are causing excessive irritation, discharging or if you are concerned swelling is excessive please seek veterinary advice.

Clean around the pin-skin interfaces once or twice daily with cotton buds **moistened** with chlorhexidine solution. Dry and apply an antiseptic or antibiotic ointment. If you are concerned pin tract discharge is **excessive** seek veterinary advice. If there is no or minimal discharge cleaning may not be necessary, but still apply antiseptic/antibiotic ointment.

Check the clamps for evidence of loosening **at least once daily**. If a nut is found to be loose it should be carefully tightened with a **7 mm** spanner.

Range-of-motion exercises on the operated limb may be performed several times daily, but **ONLY** if tolerated. Exercise each major joint of the operated limb e.g. for forelimb exercise carpus (wrist), elbow, shoulder, for hindlimb exercise tarsus (ankle), stifle (knee) and hip.

Be mindful of the sharp pin ends and the ESF frame; it can deliver a damaging impact to people and furniture.

Re-examinations with Your Vet:

- **2 to 3 days** following surgery: post surgical check-up
- **10 days** after surgery: sutures may be removed and the ESF frame checked
- **Weekly checks** thereafter to examine the ESF frame.
- **6 weeks** following surgery: X-rays will be taken so please bring your pet in fasted. If radiographs show adequate bone healing the ESF frame will be removed.
- Additional visits as indicated by your Vet

Please note that additional fees may be incurred at re-examinations. Please ask your vet about relevant fees.

Gradual improvement should be expected following surgery. If deterioration occurs please seek veterinary advice.

Declaration:

I confirm receipt of this aftercare handout (2 pages). I understand that variation from the instructions contained herein may increase the risk of post-surgical complications or otherwise affect outcome; I should only make variations if **specifically advised** to do so by my Vet.

Owner's signature:

Vet's Signature:

Print Name:

Print Name:

Date:

Date: