

Care of your dog following elbow arthroscopy & ulnar osteotomies

The following medications have been dispensed. Please ensure **all doses** are given. If you are having difficulty dosing medications or your pet develops diarrhoea or vomiting, please seek **immediate** veterinary advice.

Medication:

Key Points for Aftercare:

The operation site will have been clipped (other sites may also have been clipped for administering drugs and fluids). Avoid your dog interfering with clipped sites. Wounds may be covered with a light adhesive dressing; this may work loose, or can be removed, after three to five days. Some dogs need to wear a protective collar to prevent attention to the stitches or dressings. This should stay in place until the wound has healed/external stitches removed. It is important to prevent your dog licking the surgical wound, as this may introduce infection.

Some swelling of the operated limb following surgery is normal. **Ice packs** for 10 to 15 minutes every few hours in the first few days following surgery may help to reduce swelling and improve comfort. If the surgical site is causing excessive irritation, is **discharging** or if you are concerned **swelling** is excessive, please seek **immediate** veterinary advice.

Confinement and permitted activity:

Confine appropriately to eliminate all **running** and **jumping** for 8 weeks; choose appropriate confinement to achieve this for your dog; typically, a suitably sized cage is advisable, although in some instances a single room with non-slip flooring and no furniture may be sufficient. Short **leash** walks in the garden (a few minutes four to six times daily) are recommended to allow toileting. It is imperative that running, jumping and play are avoided.

Laminate, floorboards, & slippery tiles should be avoided or covered temporarily; a slip could result in serious injury. Stairs should be avoided. For smaller dogs it may be preferable to carry them outside for toileting.

Visitors should be instructed not to encourage excitement during visits. Children in the house should be informed of the temporary restrictions and the importance of following these.

Leash walks for 5 to 10 minutes three times daily should commence five to seven days following surgery but **maintain confinement** at other times. Use a **short** lead.

After 10 to 14 days increase leash walks to 10 to 15 minutes three times daily but **maintain confinement** at other times.

Hydrotherapy may be beneficial to recovery; this may commence following suture removal provided your Vet is satisfied with wound healing.

Re-examinations with your vet:

- **3 days** following surgery: post-surgery check-up
- **7 – 10 days** after surgery: check on wound healing (+/- suture/staple removal, if present).
- **6 - 8 weeks** following surgery: X-rays will typically be taken so please bring your dog in fasted

Gradual improvement should be expected following surgery. If deterioration occurs, please contact your vet immediately.

Variation from these aftercare instructions may increase the risk of post-surgical complications or otherwise affect outcome; only make variations if given **specific veterinary advice**.