

Aftercare of your dog following correction of angular limb deformity using hybrid external skeletal fixation (ESF)

Patients name:

Primary-care Vet:

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

Medication:	Dosage:	When to start:
Antibiotic:	Givedaily for days	
Anti-inflammatory:	Givedaily for days	
Opioid pain relief:	Givedaily for days	
Other:	Givedaily for days	

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 dog interfering with the surgical (and other clipped) site/s. Most wounds will be covered with a light adhesive dressing and this often works loose, or can be removed, after the first 48 hours. Some dogs need to wear an Elizabethan protective collar to prevent attention to the stitches or dressings. If necessary, this should stay in place until the stitches are removed. It is important your dog **not be allowed** to lick the surgical wound, as this may introduce infection.

Your dog should be kept confined to restrict activity (ideally to a single room **devoid of furniture** with non-slip flooring, or alternatively a large cage). Running and particularly **jumping** must be avoided at all times. Short **leash** walks in the garden (several minutes four to six times daily) are recommended to allow toileting. Confinement should be maintained **at all other times** until follow up radiographs have been obtained, the 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 site is causing excessive irritation, is 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.

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, which is composed of aluminium rings & titanium & carbon fibre rods; it can deliver a damaging impact to people and furniture.

Re-examinations with Your Vet:

- **Post surgical check-up** - first day following discharge
- **2 to 3 days** following surgery: 2nd 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
- **4 to 5 weeks** following surgery: X-rays will typically be taken so please bring your pet in fasted
- 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: