

Care of your dog following FHNO Surgery

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:

A pad may be covering the wound at the time of discharge from the hospital. This can be removed after several days, or immediately if soiled. Medications e.g., Pain killers will be dispensed. Ice packs may also be helpful in the days following surgery to reduce swelling and improve comfort.

Passive range-of-motion exercises should be commenced within 3 days of surgery (if tolerated). Flex and extend the affected hip twenty to thirty times and repeat three to six times daily.

Your dog should be kept confined to **eliminate running and jumping** for the first 6 to 8 weeks: a single room with non-slip flooring and no furniture may be sufficient, however, a large cage may be necessary. Short, slow leash walks in the garden (a few minutes four to six times daily) are recommended to allow toileting.

Laminate or slippery surfaces 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.

- 5 - 7 days following surgery: commence lead walking for 5 minutes at a time, two to three times daily.
- 10 to 14 days following surgery: increase lead walking to 10 minutes at a time, three times daily. Gentle Incline walking (upward slope) will aid extensor muscle strengthening.
- Three weeks following surgery: increase lead walking to 15 minutes at a time, two to three times daily. In addition to incline walking do some walking in uncut grass (ideally elbow to shoulder height) to encourage increased flexion of all joints (higher limb lift) promoting strengthening of flexor muscles.
- Four weeks following surgery: increase lead walking to 20 minutes at a time, two to three times daily.
- Five weeks following surgery: increase lead walking to 30 minutes at a time, two to three times daily.

Maintain confinement **at all other times**; running, jumping and play should be avoided for 6 weeks.

Hydrotherapy is extremely beneficial to recovery; a water treadmill is recommended if available. Hydrotherapy may commence after 2 weeks provided your Vet is satisfied with wound healing.

Engaging a professional animal physiotherapist is recommended for an optimal outcome.

Re-examinations with your vet:

- **Morning** after surgery if your dog was discharged the same day as surgery
- **3 - 5 days** following surgery: post-surgery check-up
- **7 – 10 days** after surgery: check on wound healing (+/- suture/staple removal, if present).
- **4 weeks** following surgery
- **8 weeks** following surgery

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 **specifically advised** to do so by your vet.