

## Care of your dog following surgery to manage hip Luxation

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 vet **immediately**.

### Medication:

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### 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 three to five days. 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 **is not allowed** to lick the surgical wound, as this may introduce infection.

Some swelling of the operated limb following surgery is normal (especially fluid accumulation around the hock). **Ice packs** for 10 to 15 minutes every 2 to four hours (if possible) **are recommended** in the first few days following surgery to reduce swelling and improve comfort.

Regular, gentle massage (sweeping motions from ankle to hip) may help dissipate oedema fluid.

If the surgical site is causing excessive irritation, is **discharging** or if you are concerned **swelling** is excessive, please contact your vet.

Laminate or slippery surfaces should be avoided or covered temporarily; a slip could result in serious injury. Stairs should be avoided and made inaccessible.

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.

### Confinement and permitted activity:

Confine appropriately to eliminate all **running** and **jumping** for a minimum of six to eight 8 weeks; chose appropriate confinement to achieve this for your dog; a single room with non-slip flooring and no furniture may be sufficient, however a large cage is typically advisable. 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.

- Three weeks following surgery: commence lead walking for 5 minutes at a time, two to three times daily.
- Four weeks following surgery: increase lead walking to 10 minutes at a time, two to three times daily.
- Five weeks following surgery: increase lead walking to 15 minutes at a time, two to three times daily.
- Six weeks following surgery: increase lead walking to 20 minutes at a time, two to three times daily.

Confinement should be maintained **at all other times**; lead activity as listed above must be strictly controlled; always maintain a **short** lead. Running, jumping and play should be avoided.

Water treadmill hydrotherapy is beneficial to recovery and specifically strengthen the muscles of the hip; sessions may commence at four weeks post-surgery providing your dog travels well and remains calm in the car.

### 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
- **10 to 14 days** after surgery: check on wound healing (suture/staple removal where present).
- **4 weeks** following surgery: progress check – X-rays may be taken so please bring your dog in fasted
- **6 weeks** following surgery: X-rays may be taken so please bring your dog in fasted
- 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 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.