

Care of your dog following carpal arthrodesis

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:

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. An Elizabethan protective collar is **strongly advised** to prevent licking or self-trauma, or unwanted attention to the bandages (or sutures), where present. The Elizabethan collar should generally stay in place for at least 14 days post-surgery. It is particularly important your pet **is not allowed** to lick the surgical wound, as this may introduce infection.

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. Avoid other pets causing excitement/agitation to your dog during recovery.

Confinement and permitted activity:

Confine appropriately to **eliminate all running and jumping** for at least **12** weeks. Choose appropriate confinement to achieve this for your dog; cage confinement is advised. Short **leash** walks in the garden (a few minutes four to six times daily) are recommended to allow toileting. Keep your dog at your side; use a lead of no more than 1-metre length.

Always use a short lead when walking and **maintain confinement at all other times**; running, jumping and play must be avoided for at least 12 weeks.

Care of Bandages:

A bandage has been applied to the operated limb following surgery. It is important the dressings are well cared for to minimise the risk of any problems.

If the dressing slips or becomes wet or soiled, it may not perform its functions properly and could lead to complications.

Squeeze the digits of your dog's paw (toes) morning and evening to check for normal sensation. If your dog is not responding normally contact your Vet immediately.

Check the dressing daily, especially the top and bottom, and if any of the following occur, contact your veterinary surgeon promptly:

- if there is a change in the shape or position of the dressing
- if your pet chews excessively at the dressing or is otherwise distracted by it
- if there are signs that the dressing is causing discomfort
- if there are unusual or bad odours from the dressing
- if there is any unexplained soiling of the dressing
- if sores develop at the top of the dressing
- if there is swelling of the limb
- if there are any signs of generalised illness (e.g. depression, loss of appetite)

Re-examinations with your vet:

- **The Morning** after surgery (if your dog was discharged the same day as surgery), +/- bandage change
- **3 - 5 days** following surgery: post-surgery check-up +/- bandage change
- Additional bandage changes as scheduled by your vet
- **10 to 14 days** after surgery: check on wound healing (suture/staple removal where present).
- **4 weeks** following surgery: progress check
- **6 -8 weeks** following surgery: X-rays will typically be taken so please bring your dog in fasted
- **12 -14 weeks** following surgery: X-rays will typically be taken so please bring your dog in fasted
- **16-18 weeks** following surgery: check-up +/- X-rays. Please bring your dog in fasted

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

Variations from these aftercare instructions may increase the risk of post-surgical complications or otherwise affect the outcome; only make variations if **specifically advised** to do so by your vet.