

Care of your dog following surgery to manage tarsal OCD

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 several 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 **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 large cage, or alternatively a single room with non-slip flooring). Short **leash** walks in the garden (a few minutes four to six times daily) are recommended to allow toileting. Confinement should be maintained **at all other times** for six weeks following surgery, with the exception of **scheduled activities** as detailed below.

Some swelling of the operated limb following surgery is normal. **Ice packs** for 10 to 15 minutes several times daily **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 seek veterinary advice.

Range-of-motion exercises on the operated limb may be performed several times daily, but **ONLY** if tolerated. Exercise each major joint of the limb e.g. hock (ankle), knee, hip.

Two weeks following surgery commence lead walking for 5 minutes at a time, two to three times daily, but maintain confinement at other times. Lead walking may gradually increase but should not exceed **10 minutes** at a time for the first six weeks following surgery.

Hydrotherapy is beneficial to recovery but should only be performed in a centre with qualified personnel. Hydrotherapy may commence at two to three weeks post surgery.

A course of **Cartrophen-Vet injections** is recommended and may commence following cessation of NSAIDs (anti-inflammatories). This is given as a four-injection course at 5 - 7 day intervals and is administered by your Vet.

Re-examinations with Your Vet:

- **3 days** following surgery: post surgery check-up
- **10 to 14 days** after surgery: suture removal
- **4 weeks** following surgery: progress check
- **6 weeks** following surgery: progress check
- **12 weeks** following surgery: progress check
- 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 veterinary surgeon.

Owner's signature:

Veterinarian's Signature:

Print Name:

Print Name:

Date:

Date: