

FRACTURE REPAIR DISCHARGE AND HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

Your pet has undergone surgical repair for a bone fracture using a combination of metal implants, such as plates, screws, or pins. These materials help stabilise the fracture site, allowing the bone to heal properly and your pet to return to normal function.

Healing typically takes around **8 weeks**, though this may vary depending on age, bone involved, and overall health.

The post-operative period is critical to ensure successful healing and to reduce the risk of complications.

Please follow the care instructions below closely.

Post-Surgical Care

Exercise Restriction

- Strict **rest and confinement indoors** is essential for 8 weeks.
- Allow **leash-only toilet breaks**—no running, jumping, playing, or stairs.
- A gradual return to activity may begin at **4–6 weeks**, as directed by your vet.
- **Do not leave your pet outdoors unsupervised or unrestrained.**

Pain Relief and Medications

- Your pet has been prescribed pain relief, often including anti-inflammatories.
- Please administer all medications as instructed and contact us if you experience any difficulties.

Wound and Bandage Care

- Monitor the surgical site daily for **redness, swelling, or discharge**. If noted, contact the clinic immediately.
- If your pet has a bandage, it should be removed **7 days post-surgery**, unless advised otherwise.
- Sutures or staples will need to be removed at **14 days**, unless your pet has dissolvable intradermal sutures, which do not require removal.

Elizabethan Collar (E-Collar)

- Your pet may need to wear an **E-collar** to prevent licking or chewing the wound.
- Premature interference can lead to infection or wound breakdown.
- The collar should remain in place for **14 days post-surgery**, or until advised otherwise if your pet licks or chews the wound.

Physiotherapy

- We strongly recommend booking an appointment with a **qualified animal physiotherapist** after your pet's initial recovery. Physiotherapy supports joint mobility, muscle strength, and long-term recovery.

- Please ask reception for referrals or contact details.

Diet and Nutrition

- Your pet may return to their **normal diet** unless advised otherwise.
- If weight management is needed to reduce stress on healing bones, a **weight loss diet** may be recommended—ask us about suitable options.

What Your Pet ***Cannot*** Do During Recovery

- No running, jumping, or climbing stairs
- No playing with other pets
- No swimming or getting the wound wet for 2 weeks
- No unsupervised time outdoors
- No licking or chewing the surgical site or bandage

Follow-Up and Monitoring

- A **recheck appointment is needed in 7–14 days** to monitor healing and potentially remove sutures.
- **Follow-up X-rays are required 8 weeks post-surgery** to confirm bone healing.
 - *Please fast your pet from midnight prior to the X-ray appointment*, as light sedation may be required.
- Occasionally, implants (plates, screws, or pins) can become loose or cause irritation. If this occurs, surgical removal may be necessary after the fracture has fully healed. This is not included in the original surgical cost.

When to Call the Clinic

Contact us immediately if you notice:

- Swelling, redness, or discharge at the surgical site
- Sudden worsening of limb function
- Signs of pain or discomfort
- Any concerns with mobility, appetite, or behaviour

We are here to support you throughout your pet's recovery. Please don't hesitate to call the clinic with any questions or concerns.

Thank you for trusting us with your pet's care!

