

ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY – POST SURGERY CARE

IT'S GOING TIBIA OKAY



Your foster dog has just undergone a **surgery that involved the manipulation of bone**. These procedures can be highly painful so it **important to give the pain medication as directed**. Bruising of the soft tissues surrounding the surgical site is common and can be normal.



WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR FOSTER DOG AFTER SURGERY

FEEDING.



1. We recommend waiting to **offer food and water at least one hour after your dog arrives home** to allow their stomach to settle.
2. Offer water in **small increments** to help prevent vomiting.

SUTURE REMOVAL.

1. If external **skin sutures** were placed, **please contact your Foster Coordinator to make an appointment in 10 days** to have the sutures removed.



MONITORING.

1. **Check the incision daily** for signs of redness, swelling, discharge, or missing sutures. If any of these are noted, call/text your Foster Coordinator & text a photo of the sutures.
2. If your dog **stops eating, vomits or becomes lethargic** contact your FC.
3. If you see your dog **licking or chewing the incision**, **please be sure to use the e-collar** that was provided to help prevent your dog from irritating the incision.
 - **An e-collar is provided** as part of the recovery treatment for your dog. **It's imperative that this stay on at night** when you're asleep & any other time you're not in direct supervision of your dog.
4. Please **don't bathe or allow your dog to swim** for 14 days or, if applicable, until the sutures have been removed.



EXERCISE.

1. Please **keep your dog indoors or kennelled to help reduce activity**.
2. Please **limit your dog's exercise** after surgery. Your dog should not run, jump, or play with other animals.
 - Dogs should be **walked on a leash for short periods of time** rather than free roaming to **allow the muscles to heal and keep the risk of bleeding to a minimum**.
3. A towel or **slings may be placed under the abdomen for support** to ensure they do not slip or fall, especially on slick surfaces.
4. Your dog **may return to normal activity after being given a release** from the vet's office.

MEDICATION.

1. If your dog was prescribed additional medication, **please administer the medication in accordance** with the directions on the label.



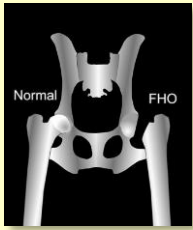
ANESTHESIA NOTES.

1. Some dogs **experience euphoria & show odd behavior hours to days after a procedure**. This can be normal and should resolve without further treatment.
2. You may notice **some coughing for the next couple of days**. This is normal **due to a small amount of irritation to the throat** from an endotracheal tube.
 - If coughing seems **excessive**, **please contact your FC** and include videos of coughing, **including details like how often and when the cough started**.



SPECIFIC ORTHOPEDIC SURGICAL PROCEDURES

All of the instructions on page 1 also apply in addition to the information provided below.

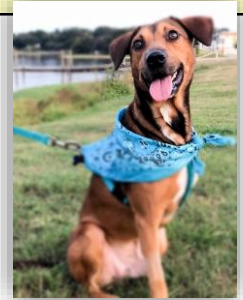


FHO (Femoral head and neck osteotomy) is a nonreversible surgical procedure performed on the hip joint for a variety of conditions. Its primary purpose is to relieve pain associated with abnormal joint anatomy or function. Pain is relieved by elimination of bony contact between the femur and the pelvis through the formation of a fibrous false joint.

- Because of slight limb shortening & some loss of range of motion, some gait abnormality persists.
- A towel / sling can be put under the abdomen for support so they don't slip or fall, especially on slick surfaces.
- Bruising of the soft tissues surround the incision site is common and can be normal.

Amputation Amputation is a surgical procedure commonly performed in dogs to remove a diseased or injured limb. Dogs function exceptionally well on 3 legs and are able to run, walk, and play without pain or discomfort. Dogs don't suffer the psychological distress of losing a limb the same way a human does. The primary purpose of the limb is in movement. Because dogs don't need to perform fine motor skills they easily adapt to having only 3 legs.

- A towel / sling can be put under the abdomen for support so he doesn't slip or fall, especially on slick surfaces.
- Bruising of the soft tissues surround the incision site is common and can be normal.



Fracture Repair It's critical that your dog be confined in a kennel or crate for a minimum of 6-8 weeks to allow healing of the fracture and avoid damage or loosening of the surgical repair. Absolutely no running, jumping, or stair climbing is allowed. Failure to properly confine your dog may result in failure of the fracture repair due to breakdown of the implants and/or bone.

1. A towel / sling can be put under the abdomen for support so he doesn't slip or fall, especially on slick surfaces.
2. A bandage or splint is commonly placed for additional support & usually requires regular rechecks and changing.
 - The length of time the bandage or splint is required varies with the type of fracture, your dog's age and healing noted on recheck radiographs.
 - The bandage/splint needs to be monitored very closely for any signs of slippage & must be kept clean and dry at all times. Use plastic grocery bags to protect splint while the dog is outside.

WARNING – Wet bandages can cause SEVERE complications with healing.

- If you have any questions or concerns regarding the bandage/splint, or if it gets wet or dirty, please contact your FC.
- Bruising of the soft tissue surrounding the surgical site is common and can be normal.

Wire Jaw Jaw fractures are a very common problem in vet practice. The most important goal in jaw fracture repair is to allow the pet to eat comfortably, soon after repair. We also want to maintain normal occlusion. The ultimate goal is to successfully repair the fracture.

1. Monitor your dog's food & water intake carefully. If you notice any changes in his appetite, thirst or mental status, please call your FC.
2. If the surgical incision is visible, check it at least once a day for swelling, redness, excessive pain or heat, and discharge.
3. Most dogs with fractures will require restriction of activity for the first 4-6 weeks after the surgery to protect the healing tissues.
4. The type of food you feed to your dog is important and the vet or FC will inform you which foods to use. Chewing on anything hard is prohibited until the healing is complete.
5. Wires and pins will need to be removed and are likely to be done under another anesthetic.
6. Healing jaw fractures are often messy, saliva & food tends to dribble from the mouth. It's very important to keep these areas clean by cleaning them with warm water several times a day.



Discharges or bad smells from the mouth could indicate an infection and you should contact your FC as soon as possible.