



MONROE ANIMAL HEALTH

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ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS

It is important that you follow these instructions closely. The postoperative care is as important for the successful outcome as the surgery itself. If you have any questions or concerns about your pet's condition or any of the instructions, please feel free to give us a call.

Suture Removal: Suture removal should be performed 10-14 days following surgery by your veterinarian. Please call & schedule a time with the receptionist.

Restricted Activity: The single most important component of his/her healing is insuring that the tissues are not subjected to high strain that occurs with unregulated activity. Unfortunately, when an animal feels well, they think they are well; a potential for disaster. Indoors, he/she should be confined to an airline crate, small bathroom or utility room when not under direct supervision of yourself or a family member. Please use a sling or towel under abdomen when taking him/her outside & avoid slippery floors. Always continue to use a leash when taking outside to use the restroom.

Medications: Pain control for your pet is top priority. Instructions on the amount & frequency of medications can be found on the bottle label. If you have any questions regarding the medications, please feel free to call us. Please do not use any over the counter medications unless authorized by your veterinarian first.

E-Collar: If your pet is being sent home with an E-Collar it is to protect the incision from chewing/licking/scratching. It is paramount that the collar remain on at all times that your pet is not under direct supervision by yourself or your family. We recommend your pet wear his/her E-collar until the time of their next recheck or suture removal. Failure to do so could result in the incision opening up & becoming infected. The E-Collar will likely become unnecessary following suture removal.

Radiographs: Radiographs (X-Rays) will need to be taken at approximately 8-10 weeks postoperatively to document proper healing. While it is impossible to predict how long it will take him/her to heal, these films will allow us to assess the progress. However, if healing is not complete, additional radiographs may be required at a later date. We will use sedatives/anesthetics to minimize any discomfort to him/her. This may require a drop-off appointment. Please call & schedule a date for the radiographs with the receptionists. If we have not informed you of the charge for the anesthesia & radiographs, please feel free to ask.

Implant Removal: In the vast majority of cases, the implant stays with the patient for the remainder of their life. In rare cases of stress protection, infection or intolerance, it becomes necessary to remove implants. Stress protection is typically evident on recheck radiographs & we will alert you if observed. Infection manifests as a drainage, non-healing wound or persistent lameness. Patient intolerance is rare, but is conspicuous due to incessant licking over the implant area. Typically, all scenarios develop months to years after the surgery. If you observe any of these behaviors, please notify us. If you have questions regarding the cost of implant removal, please feel free to ask.

Thank you for entrusting us with the care of your pet. Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions of concerns.

After-Hours Emergency Clinic: 318-410-0555