



# Wheat Ridge Veterinary Specialists

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## Postoperative Care of Bone & Joint Surgeries

### Postoperative Instructions

**The patient should be confined for the first 6 to 8 weeks following surgery.**

**1. Three activities are allowed. 1)** The patient can be in the house under the immediate control of the owner on a carpeted surface without playing. **2)** The patient is to be in a traveling kennel while unattended. **3)** The patient is to be under the direct supervision of the owner and on a leash while outside for bathroom duties. **No** prolonged walks are allowed. These restrictions are imposed during the bone healing process to secure the anticipated surgical results. **No free activities are allowed until after healing has occurred and is confirmed by x-rays.**

**2.** Normal food and water consumption can resume the day following surgery. During the 6 to 8 week confinement period it is recommended that the patient be kept on **half (50%)** of their normal portion of food to prevent excessive weight gain which could hinder rehabilitation.

**3.** Inflammation is usually the worst during the first 2 to 3 days following surgery. If there is a time when the patient is acutely sore or hurts, please contact us immediately. Sharp yelps or cries and change in usage of a limb are indications of potential problems.

**4. Discourage** the patient from licking at their incision. Licking leads to chewing and the patient may remove sutures or create a wound infection by doing so. Bandages and splints should be kept clean and dry. Any odors, or persistent licking and chewing, are indications of a possible problem. When in doubt, call us or your veterinarian to schedule an evaluation ASAP.

**5.** Please schedule an appointment for 10 to 14 days post-operatively for evaluation of soft tissue healing. X-rays are usually taken at 6 to 8 weeks following surgery to evaluate bone healing (x-rays may be advised at 4 week intervals depending on the case and the procedure done). **After** bone healing is confirmed by x-rays, a more active rehabilitation process will be outlined and initiated.

**If you have questions or concerns about your pet's progress at any time during the healing and rehabilitation process, please call us.**

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