



HILL COUNTRY VETERINARY SURGICAL SPECIALTY
+18305491698 | info@HCVSS.com

Fluffy TEST (CA241B66)

Visit Report: Thursday, October 31, 2024

VISIT

Reason: TPLO

Veterinarian: Justin Harper

Check In: 10/31/24, 12P

Check Out:

PATIENT

Fluffy TEST (ID CA241B66)

2 YO X LABR (DOB: Sep 19, 2022)

Canine Labrador Retriever

Weight: None

Microchip #: None

ACCOUNT

TEST TEST (ID 233C0)

(848) 318-1071

HCVSS Post Surgical Care of Bone and Joint Surgery (Fracture repair), Completed: 11/05/24, 11A

Veterinarian: Justin Harper

Now it's your turn!

AN E-COLLAR IS MANDATORY FOR 14 DAYS TO PROTECT SKIN INCISION. YOUR PET SHOULD BE MAINTAINED ON LEASH ACTIVITY AND CRATE/CAGE CONFINEMENT FOR MINIMUM OF 8 WEEKS. PLEASE FOLLOW ENTIRE SET OF DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS.

Home patient care after orthopedic surgery is critical to the success of the surgery. Allowing your pet too much activity may alter the anticipated outcome of the surgery.

The following instructions will be your general guide to home care. Your surgeon may have more detailed instructions for you regarding a rehabilitation program for your pet's specific surgery.

Your pet received a peripheral nerve block today to assist in pain management. This may cause your pet to drag their affected leg or "knuckle" for the next 6-12 hours. If you see your pet doing this, please use a harness or a towel to assist them when walking or you can flip their paw over to avoid it dragging on the ground.

****Do NOT use Librela.** Librela is not a substitute for joint instability secondary to CrCl disease. We have identified some end stage joint destruction with chronic use of aNGFmAb-induced joint destruction.**

General Exercise and Activity Restrictions:

The patient should be confined for a minimum of 6-8 weeks following the surgery. Only three activities are allowed during this time:

The patient can be in the house under the immediate control (leash) of the owner, on a carpeted surface only, without playing or fooling around.

The patient is left in a traveling kennel or exercise pen while unattended (see notes on exercise pens and kennels). Never put the patient in an outside run, patio or free in backyard.

The patient is under the direct supervision of the owner on a leash while outside for sunning or eliminations.

Your pet may require assistance with a towel underneath its abdomen to get up and move outside if your pet has had a major fracture repair and/or is weak from only being able to rise or use one hindlimb or forelimb. Please assist your pet in and out of the house until able to move on its own.

Activities That Are Not Permitted:

No Free Activity (playing, jumping, running or long strenuous walks).

No Stairs (1 or 2 are alright to go outside)

No outdoor dog runs or "Doggie Doors".

No slippery floors (tile, linoleum or wood)

No general confinements (garage, patio, bathroom, porch, laundry room, bedroom or kitchen) without a kennel.

Note:

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Most dogs do very well with the 6-week confinement restriction. However, if your dog is difficult to control or has an exceeding amount of energy, the use of small amounts of a tranquilizer may be necessary to help during this confinement period. If you cannot control your dog or you cannot take care of your dog post-operatively it may be better to board your dog with your veterinarian for the first 3 weeks after surgery.

The following instructions will be your guide to home care:

If your pet is walking normally, no matter how soon after surgery, you may stop all rehabilitation exercises but continue leash restriction for a minimum of eight weeks to allow full bone healing.)

When post-op x-rays confirm stable enough fixation, a rehabilitation program can be started. During this period the dog's activities are gradually increased in order to stretch the surgery scar tissue and rebuild muscles. The degree of activity should progress with the dog remaining comfortable. Since increasing duration, not intensity is the goal, explosive activities, such as running, jumping or playing are not allowed during this period.

The only exception to this rule is femur or humeral fracture repairs including distal femoral fractures. These cases need immediate range of motion exercises beginning week 1 and progressing daily until normal limb usage through week 6-8. Range of motion exercises involve flexing the hindlimb or forelimb 90 degrees or more at the stifle joint or elbow joint. 10-15 repetitions are required 2-3 times daily to aide in avoiding muscle contraction or muscle tie down concerns. Should you have any questions on how to perform ROM exercises please visit with your veterinarian.

Activity Instructions

During the first 4-8 weeks post-operatively, your pet should be confined to a kennel or dog crate at all times. They should have enough room to stand up and stretch, turn around and/or have a litter box with them. He/she may be let out of their kennel only to be held. They should not have any free activity outside of their kennel and absolutely should not be allowed on a counter or bed. Set up a consultation within the first 7 days of your pet's post-operative care to assess comfort level, ensure understanding of rehabilitation therapy which will improve and result in quicker return to function for your pet. Kim Barrier, CCRVN (kim@tsvs.net), Texas Specialty Veterinary Services-Mobile Rehabilitation & Conditioning and Underwater Treadmill therapy, Please contact at (800) 707-0167. Start your pet on Antinol, a joint supplement by VetzPetz. If your primary veterinary hospital does not carry this product, you can purchase Antinol online at www.antinol.com with our TSVS code S6685378.

After 4 weeks of confined leash activity only, your pet may spend a short amount of time (~30 minutes) outside of his/her kennel but ONLY under your direct supervision. Your pet is still not allowed to run or jump during this time. If necessary, you may put a harness on your pet and attach it to a leash to keep him/her from running or jumping while he/she is out of her kennel.

Other Post Operative Instructions:

Sutures or Staples are removed in 14 days with your rDVM or HCVSS.

Use all medications as directed.

Your pet has a light bandage covering the incision site called a Hypafix. This is meant to act as a barrier to keep the incision site clean from debris. The Hypafix placed by the TSVS team post operatively can stay on until suture/staple removal and removed by your referring veterinarian at that time. However, if it becomes wet or dirty, it does need to be removed, so the incision site is not compromised. The Hypafix can be removed by your primary veterinarian's hospital staff. If the Hypafix comes off on its own prior to suture removal, that's OK! Please ensure the incision site is kept dry and free from debris until the sutures or staples are removed.

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Licking at the incision should be discouraged because it may lead to chewing at the sutures or staples causing a wound infection. It may be necessary to bandage the leg or use an Elizabethan collar to prevent licking. Unless your veterinarian states otherwise, an Elizabethan collar is mandatory until sutures are removed.

If you purchased a Lick Sleeve for your pet to wear following surgery, please read the information and instructions below:

1. The Lick Sleeve does not take the place of an Elizabethan collar, or "e-collar". When you are not with your pet, the e-collar needs to be put on.
2. If the Lick Sleeve gets wet or soiled, it needs to be removed, washed, and dried before putting it back on. During this process, the e-collar needs to be kept on your pet until the Lick Sleeve is cleaned, dry, and reapplied.
3. We recommend keeping the Lick Sleeve on the pet for an additional 48 hours after the sutures/staples are removed.

We have included some helpful videos about the Lick Sleeve:

Lick Sleeve Instructional Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tgBxqrWvjI4>

How to Apply the Lick Sleeve on the Rear Leg: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nf7BChpFfgw>

How to Apply the Lick Sleeve on the Front Leg: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UP46TxwKONI>

Male Dog Urination Instructions with a Lick Sleeve: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rwtBsKoe86M>

Bandages and splints should always be kept dry and clean. Any odors and/or persistent licking are indicators that there may be a potential problem and should be checked by your veterinarian immediately. Bandages and splints should be checked weekly by your veterinarian or veterinary technician.

If your pet's limping or pain appears to worsen after running out of pain medication, please call and request a refill for as long as it continues to help.

Feed your pet its regular diet but reduce it by 10% to allow for reduced activity.

Mild swelling may occur near the incision or low on limbs. Your veterinarian should check moderate or severe swelling immediately.

Progress radiographs are usually taken between 4 weeks after surgery and again 4-8 weeks after that to be sure the fracture is healing properly.

Resuming Activity

Resuming full activity and exercise will be determined in most cases by the radiographs taken at 6-8 weeks after the surgery. Unless instructed otherwise, follow your pet's individual rehabilitation program. Recheck immediately if your pet suddenly starts using their leg less than before.

Expected Results

Orthopedic patients heal in about 2-4 months for most bone surgeries and slightly longer for soft tissue problems such as ligaments and tendons. Most patients will return to controlled activity in 2 months and full activity in 3-4 months. Most athletic dogs will return to full function in 6 months.

Complications

As with any surgical procedure, complications can occur. Unlike human patients who can use a sling or crutches,

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our patients do not know enough to stay off a healing broken bone so restricted activity is a major responsibility of you, the pet owner. Failure to follow these instructions carefully can lead to delayed healing, broken implants, loose implants, or even re-fracture of the bone which leads to costly second surgeries.

The most common complication is delayed healing, where, despite our best efforts to reduce and stabilize the fracture, individual patients respond slower than others. In other cases, the bone may refuse to heal and require additional procedures like bone grafting.

Infections are quite uncommon in veterinary orthopedic surgery, but when they do occur they can markedly affect the ability of the bone to heal.

The healing of a fracture is a race between the implants failing, as all metal does, and the bone healing. Thankfully, the bone healing wins this race in almost all the cases we encounter with cooperative owners. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask your veterinarian.

Follow Up Instructions

Consider purchasing a harness for your pet to help them up or down stairs, getting up or down from lying or laying down. A great harness for this purpose is Help me up harness - www.helpemup.com.

Recheck in sutures/staples in 14 days with rDVM or HCVSS

First progress radiograph in 4-8 weeks (depending on age of patient), sooner if not using leg well at three weeks.

Recheck every 2 weeks after suture removal to evaluate progress

Recommend consultation with the following rehabilitation service:

- Kim Barrier, CCRVN (kim@tsvs.net), Texas Specialty Veterinary Services – Mobile Rehabilitation, Conditioning & Underwater Treadmill Therapy. Please contact (800) 707-0167

Implant removal plate, pins or screws only if causing discomfort in the future

Antibiotics

Start antibiotic as prescribed by Dr. Harper.

Pain Medications

Start pain medication as prescribed by Dr. Harper.

Start Gabapentin as prescribed by Dr. Harper.

Thank you!

We want to express our heartfelt gratitude for choosing Hill Country Veterinary Surgical Specialty to provide care for your beloved furry friend. We understand that surgeries can be stressful, and we truly appreciate the trust you have placed in us during such a time.



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We are privileged to be part of your pet's care journey, and we look forward to serving you and your furry family member in the future.

Wishing you and your pet continued health and happiness.

Warmest regards,
Hill Country Veterinary Surgical Specialty