



## **Post operative care after fracture repair (Feline)**

Procedure performed: repair of distal femoral fracture

### **Exercise Restrictions:**

Keep inside until radiographs have been taken that show adequate fracture healing.

The first 4-6 weeks are critical: it is imperative that no outside activity is allowed. Try to restrict your pet to a crate, pen or small area/room within the house. Try to avoid allowing him/her unrestricted access to places where he/she may slip or fall (stairs, slippery floors) or jump. Remember that your pet will probably want to use the leg more than they should, especially at around 1-2 weeks after surgery. The repair should withstand controlled walking on the leg, but no rough play, jumping, or running through the house. Generally after 1-2 weeks it is safe to let your pet walk more in the house. It is highly recommended that you make an appointment after surgery for sedation and x-rays at approximately 6 weeks after surgery. Because your pet may need to be sedated for this procedure, do not feed him/her after 10 pm the night before - water is OK.

### **Wound care**

The incision and associated surgery site may be swollen the first few days after surgery. Some of the swelling may gravitate down the leg, which is normal, and may result in swelling of the foot. In addition you may notice bruising that may become very dark red, and spread out away from the skin incision. All of this is normal. You should become concerned that your pet may have an infection IF:

A: the wound becomes very swollen or discharges a yellow or green material

B: your pet suddenly stops using the leg or becomes very depressed or lethargic. If these signs occur, you should contact your veterinarian

Sometimes the wound will ooze some blood during the first 24-48 hours at home. You should not be alarmed at this; you can hold a cotton sponge over it for 5-10 minutes to stop the bleeding. If necessary you can clean the wound with cotton sponges and warm water, or even a little hydrogen peroxide at the skin edges, being careful not to get it in the wound which can cause some minor irritation.

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