

Caring for your Pet after Spinal Surgery

PATIENT DETAILS

Name of patient:

Your pet has just undergone spinal surgery, and it is very important that you continue their care routine at home in order to get the best result from their recovery. Please keep your pet caged at all times except when you can directly supervise them.

Medication to continue at home:

- i) Antibiotic (Rilexine) until the external wound has healed
If this wound becomes sorer or starts to weep more than a small amount of pink watery fluid, please bring your pet back to see us as this may indicate the start of a wound infection. The wound is healing well so far.
- ii) Anti-inflammatory / pain relief (Loxicom)
This is on-going reduction of post-surgical pain and bruising until the back muscles heal. Please use the bottle until it runs out.
- iii) A drug to help electrical conduction in the spinal cord (Gabapentin)
- iv) A drug to help encourage spinal cord healing (Vitofyllin)

When we need to see you again

Please come back for the stitches to be removed 14 days after the operation. Then again 6 weeks after the operation for us to assess his/her recovery at that stage to determine the need for on-going medications. Remember that it will be at least 3-4 months before your pet gets close to how he/she will be in the long term after this surgery.

FOLLOW UP APPOINTMENT

Please let us know if you are unable to attend the above appointment and we will arrange an alternative day/time.

Contact Information

Telephone (24 hours Emergency Line): 01472 347054
Telephone (Office hours): 01472 362821
Telephone (Office hours): 01472 240422



The 4 Step Guide to Physiotherapy for your pet:

If your dog will allow you to, place them on their side while you do these exercises. If they will not happily lie on their side, you can do it while they are standing but you may have to support their middle. Please try to do all of this at least 4 times a day.

Massage: A light massage up and down your dog's body will improve circulation and increase muscle tone. Rub each major muscle group in both the hind limbs, start at the toes and work your way up to the muscles around the hip area. Remember this isn't a deep tissue massage. It's a slow gentle rub upwards on the skin to aid circulation.

Toe Squeeze: This can be a good way to see if improvement is happening. Nerve control of paws is usually the last to return. Pulling away or pushing back at you when you do this indicates some return of sensation and movement.

Passive Range of Motion: Slowly flex and extend the whole leg moving each joint in turn. Repeat 10 times. And finally, slowly move the limb in a circular motion, like a human riding a bike. First circle in one direction and then reverse it. Once you've finished with one limb, move to the next. Gently flip your dog to the other side and repeat the exercise.

Standing with Support: Lift your dog onto their feet and place their hind feet in the correct position. This helps to maintain strength in both fore and hind limbs. Try counting how many seconds your dog can stand unassisted for, this will help us to monitor how much they are improving.

Assisted Walking: Using either a sling or a blanket/towel under their middle to take the weight of their back end, will allow them to make the correct forelimb movements to rebuild muscle strength back up to walk. Take your pet outdoors being careful to lift over any steps. The fresh air and change of scene really helps recovery and enrichment during the healing period, 'Walk' slowly with hind legs supported, always on a lead to stop them from going faster than they can manage.