



Referral Animal Hospital, P.A.

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POST SURGICAL CARE OF CRUCIATE LIGAMENT INJURY PATIENTS

1. The patient should be confined the first 6-8 weeks following surgery. Three activities are allowed.
1) The patient can be in the house under the immediate care and control of the owner on a carpeted surface without playing. 2) The patient is to be left in a traveling kennel while unattended. 3) The third option is for the patient to be resting outside on a short leash while under the direct supervision of the owner. No prolonged walks are allowed. These restrictions are imposed during the bone healing process to reach the anticipated surgical results. **No free activities are allowed until after healing has occurred and is confirmed by radiographs (usually 6-8 weeks).**
2. During the 6-8 week confinement period it is recommended that the patient be kept on one-half (½) of their normal portion of food to prevent weight gain.
3. Inflammation is usually the worst for the first 2-3 days following surgery. If your pet is discharged from the hospital with any medications such as antibiotics and / or anti-inflammatories complete the entire prescription and the recommended dosage. If there is a time when the patient is acutely sore or hurts, please contact the WCVS office or your regular veterinarian. Sharp yelps or cries and change in usage of the limb are indications of potential problems.
4. Discourage the patient from licking at their incisions or bandages. Licking leads to chewing, and the patient may remove skin sutures or staples by doing so, which may lead to infection. An Elizabethan collar may be required to prevent self-manipulation. Bandages and casts should always be kept clean and dry. Any unusual odors, drainage, or persistent licking and chewing are indications of a possible problem. When in doubt, remove the bandage and seek immediate veterinary assistance.
5. An appointment 2 weeks post-operatively is required to remove skin staples or sutures and to monitor soft tissue healing. Your regular veterinarian may perform this. A recheck examination at the WCVS office 6-8 weeks post-operatively to confirm satisfactory healing and progress is required. After skin sutures / staples are removed and satisfactory external soft tissue healing has occurred, the rehabilitation process as outlined is initiated. If at any time during the healing and rehabilitation process you have any questions or concerns about your pet's progress, please give us a call.