

Fracture repair

Long bone fractures

In most cases, for the best long-term results, and early return of limb function, long bone fractures are treated with the use of internal fixators (plate and screws, with or without a pin).

Post-operative care



Wound care - If stitches are present, these should be removed 10-14 days after the operation. Monitor the surgical site twice daily, and contact your vet if you notice any discharge or swelling.



Medication - Your dog will be discharged with anti-inflammatories and antibiotics. It is important to follow the instructions. Any vomiting, diarrhoea or other changes should be reported to your vet immediately.

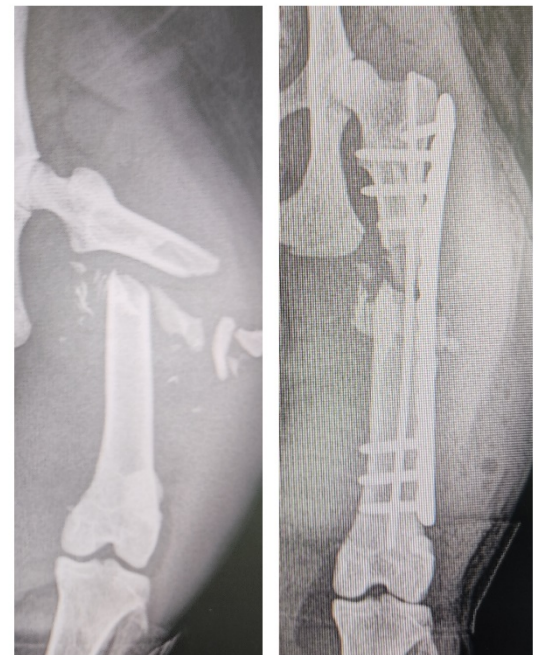


Diet - It is advised to reduce the caloric intake by about 20% during the initial 6 weeks after the operation. Drastic changes in the type of food offered should be avoided.



Follow-up care - Four to eight weeks after the operation, follow-up radiographs will be taken. This allows us to evaluate the degree of bone healing, and confirm there are no implant-related complications.

Based on these assessments, decisions regarding further levels of exercise will be discussed. If there are no complications, exercise can be gradually re-introduced.



* The information sheet provided is your guide for post-operative care following surgical repair of bone fractures. Please read and follow the instructions for the most optimal outcome.

Exercise restriction



Following a fracture repair, patients will require up to 8 weeks of strict rest.

Cats and small dogs are ideally kept in a crate large enough to allow a bed, and food and water bowls.

Large dogs can be rested by confining to a single room, with a non-slip floor.

Avoid stairs, and take your dog out for toilet breaks on a short lead, at a slow and steady pace.

If any of these exercises seem to make your dog lame, stop them immediately and contact your vet.

Implants

The majority of patients do not require implant removal. However, some cases will benefit from implant removal; examples of indications include:

- ❖ A fracture repair done in a young, growing patient, where the implant may impede on the final bone length
- ❖ Infection
- ❖ Implant loosening
- ❖ External skeletal fixator (ESF); these are always removed once bone healing is confirmed

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Following this advice should help your pet recover quickly however if you have any questions please contact your veterinary practice.