

POST-OPERATIVE CARE: ORTHOPEDIC



Crate Guidelines:

Post-operative recovery period is essential to a successful recovery following an orthopedic procedure. Activity restriction is necessary for appropriate bone healing and will require a crate or small confined area. Acquiring an appropriate crate before surgery is highly recommended. If your pet is not accustomed to spending time in a crate, we recommend feeding all meals and treats in the kennel to encourage them to associate the area with a good place (den). The crate should be large enough to allow them to lay comfortably and turn around. Your pet will need to wear a **cone collar** during the first 10-14 days after surgery, so will need adequate room in the crate. Your pet is allowed to spend time with you outside of the crate as long as they are on a leash and well-controlled.

Dog Crate Sizing Guide

Extra small crate 1-10 lbs
22"L x 13"W x 16"H

Small crate 11-25 lbs
24"L x 18"W x 21"H

Medium crate 26-40 lbs
30"L x 21"W x 24"H
30"L x 19"W x 21"H

Large crate 41-70 lbs
36"L x 24"W x 27"H
36"L x 23"W x 25"H

Extra Large crate 71-90 lbs
42"L x 28"W x 31"H

XXL crate 90+ lbs
46"L x 30"W x 33"H



For felines that need to be activity restricted, we recommend a large crate that can accommodate a litter box. They should always have access to water.

Medications:

Patients are typically released from hospital with pain, anti-inflammatory, and sedation medications. The pain and anti-inflammatory medications are given 7-10 days after surgery and typically discontinued unless instructed otherwise. It is common for patients to be constipated following surgery and often do not have a bowel movement for 2-3 days. We recommend giving unsweetened **canned pumpkin** with each meal for 5-7 days following surgery. Oral sedatives will be given 2-3 times a day and highly recommended throughout your pet's recovery. As patients begin to heal and feel better, their risk of injury due to over-activity increases and oral sedatives decrease this risk. It will also assist in preventing anxiety or agitation while being confined and restricted.

Walking Guidelines:

For patients that have had an orthopedic procedure, it is important that they not run, jump, or slip. This could result in implant failure and/or damage to the surgery site. When walking your pet outside for bathroom breaks, always have them on a leash and use a sling (for surgeries performed on pelvic limbs). The sling is used to prevent slipping on hard surfaces and assist your pet while walking. You do not need to lift their hind limbs off of the ground with the sling, but simply provide a safety net in the event of a fall. The Outward Hound sling is pictured and are available for our patients. There are other sling options that can be purchased online or at a pet supply store, that may suit your specific needs (GingerLead, Help 'Em Up harness, and others).



Bandage/Splint/Cast Care:

It is important to keep the bandage material clean and dry. If you are walking on damp surfaces or your pet has urinated in the crate, we recommend placing a plastic bag over the bottom of the cast/bandage to prevent soiling of the padding material. This can lead to interdigital dermatitis and/or infection of the surgical incision. If your pet's bandage becomes soiled, please contact us or your primary veterinarian for potential replacement or removal. Also monitor for excessive slipping of the cast/bandage. Monitor the toes (if applicable) for any swelling (the toes will spread apart if swollen).