

Postoperative Care Instructions for Lateral Suture Stabilization

Your pet has had a procedure with North Peninsula Veterinary Surgical Group called a Lateral Suture Stabilization. This orthopedic surgery is designed to treat a ruptured cranial cruciate ligament in the knee and will help stabilize the joint. A nylon suture was placed in the tibial tuberosity to immobilize the bones, doing the job of the ligament. It is important to allow your pet time to heal, avoiding possible injury while they recover. Please keep this in mind and strictly follow the postoperative care instructions here.

Activity

- Absolutely no running or jumping, unsupervised use of stairs, or playing roughly with any pets or children.
- All toileting and time outside must be done on-leash.
- Avoid access to slippery floors such as hardwood and stairs.
- Plan to restrict your pet's activity for the next 8-12 weeks. This includes very short walks on-leash three times a day for toileting purposes only.
- Plan to keep your pet enclosed in a crate or small room during recovery. At the 8 week appointment, we can determine if they are ready to slowly return to normal activities.

Incision Site

- All pets must wear an e-collar at all times (except during a walk) for 7-10 days following their procedure.
- Monitor the surgical site daily for infection. This can present as swelling, redness, discharge or signs of sudden pain to the touch. Call us immediately if you notice any of these.
- Use a cold compress every 6-8 hours for 10 minutes at a time for 5 days after the procedure. We recommend a store-bought ice pack or a bag of frozen peas inside a plastic bag and then wrapped in a washcloth.

Medications

- Make sure you have a plan to give all medications as directed, including reminders where necessary. Call us if you believe your pet may be having a poor reaction to any of their medications.
- If your pet experiences a loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea or dark and tarry stool, call us immediately.

Food & Water

- Your pet should have access to water at all times and can be fed their regular food.



Recovery Trajectory

- You can generally expect your pet to have a slow but steady recovery. If you notice that your pet is lethargic, experiencing more pain or seems generally unwell, please call us immediately.
- Your pet should begin to show gradual improvements in their ability to walk on the affected leg. This process can often take weeks. If they are still not even placing the injured leg on the ground in 10 days, please call us.

Follow-up Appointment

- We will schedule a follow-up appointment to remove sutures 7 to 10 days after the procedure.
- We will also schedule a follow up in 8 weeks to take a look at your pet's progress.

We're here to help throughout your pet's recovery, please do not hesitate to call us with any questions or concerns.

