

## Postoperative Care Instructions for Patellar Luxation Stabilization

Your pet has had a procedure with North Peninsula Veterinary Surgical Group to repair a luxating patella. This surgery allows us to realign the patella (kneecap) in the correct spot. During the procedure, pins were placed into the tibia which may take quite a while to fully heal. 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 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

- 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.
- Discourage scratching and licking at the incision. Call us if you're struggling to control this behavior.
- Keep the surgery site clean and dry. Do not apply any ointments or other treatments. No bathing or swimming for 14 days after the procedure.

### 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.
- We may prescribe sedatives if your pet is struggling to remain calm during recovery. While your pet should begin using the affected leg again in 2 weeks (if they are not, please contact us) they will still need to have strict limitations on exercise. Allowing them to be off-leash can lead to behaviors that reverse the benefits of the procedure.



### **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 10 to 12 days after the procedure.
- We will also schedule a follow up in 8 weeks to take a look at your pet's progress. At this appointment we will take additional x-rays to confirm that they're healing as they should be. Please note that there will be additional fees for these follow up radiographs. As sedation may be required, please do not feed your pet before their exams.

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

