

AFTERCARE GUIDE

SPINAL SURGERY



SURGERY TO REMOVE A RUPTURED INTERVERTEBRAL DISC

A care guide for your pet undergoing surgery



About the procedure

Following the surgery your pet would have begun to recover the use of their hind limbs. They are now able to stand but could remain weak. This should improve over the next weeks.

It will be important to take your pet out at regular intervals so that they can mobilize their hind limbs and begin to regain muscle tone and strength.

We have monitored your pet to ensure they have been passing urine and faeces without difficulty.

Please monitor their wound and contact us if there is any sign of swelling, discharge or redness.

The skin stitches are dissolvable and will not need removal.

Your pet may have been sent home with anti-inflammatory/pain killing drugs. Please give these drugs as directed with food.

If your pet shows any sign of vomiting or diarrhoea, please stop these drugs immediately and contact us to discuss.

Do not give any other medication without checking with us or your own practice first.

At home recovery

- We strongly advise mobilization and exercise on a front harness and a hind quarter harness or sling/scarf.
- No free activity (climbing the stairs, running in the garden) is permitted.
- **The spinal cord will be very delicate for some weeks. Excessive activity could result in recurrence of paralysis.**

Follow Up

Please monitor the patient's wound and contact Christchurch Referrals if there is any sign of swelling, discharge or redness.

We would like to see your pet in 4 weeks to check their progress.

A full report of the treatment your pet has received has been sent to your own vet.

If at any time you are concerned about your pet's progress, please contact us directly (even if after hours) as your own vet may not be familiar with this procedure.



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KEEP TRACK OF THEIR PROGRESS

Day 1

Day 2

Day 3

Day 4

Day 5

Day 6

Day 7

HAVE A CONCERN?

PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO GET IN TOUCH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.