

# AFTERCARE GUIDE

## ARTHRODESIS - CANINE



### SURGERY TO FUSE ONE OR MORE JOINTS

A care guide for your pet undergoing surgery



#### About the procedure

Following surgery, a full report of the treatment will be sent to back to us for review and to share with you.

To prevent disruption of the repair it is important that the patient is restricted to lead exercise only for the next 10 weeks. Initially (the first 4 weeks) only 5 minutes at a time 4-5 times daily in the garden then slowly increasing in duration.

Usually, a Primapore dressing covers the wound, and ideally this should stay on for a week. If however it does come off please ensure that the wound isn't licked as this could lead to serious infection or the wound opening up. You have been supplied with an Elizabethan collar. Please ensure this is worn at all times during the first 10 days post operatively. If you choose to use an inflatable collar rather than the plastic collar provided, please ensure the patient cannot access the wound as these collars tend to be less efficient.

The patient will sent home with anti-inflammatory/pain killing drugs. Please give these drugs as directed with food. If there is any sign of vomiting or diarrhoea, please stop these drugs immediately and contact Christchurch Referrals to discuss. Do not give any other medication without checking with them or us first.

#### At home recovery

- We recommend cage or very small room restriction during the recovery stage.
- We recommend you ice pack the area for 7 minutes 3 times daily to reduce any swelling.
- No free activity (climbing the stairs, running in the garden) is permitted.
- Failure to rest him/her adequately could result in disruption of the repair.



#### Follow Up

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

A wound check will need to be carried out with your **vet 7 days after surgery.**

The skin stitches are dissolvable and will not need removal.

**At 4 weeks** we would like to see the patient at our referral centre to check on progress.

**At 6-8 weeks** we will need to arrange an x-ray at our referral centre to check progress.

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### KEEP TRACK OF THEIR PROGRESS

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Day 1

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Day 2

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Day 3

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Day 4

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Day 5

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Day 6

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Day 7

### HAVE A CONCERN?

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