

ARTHRODESIS DISCHARGE SUMMARY AND HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS



Your pet has undergone an arthrodesis procedure.

This surgical technique is used to relieve pain and restore function in a joint affected by end-stage arthritis or severe joint disease.

The joint is permanently fused by removing cartilage, placing a bone graft, and stabilising the joint with metal implants, which remain in place after fusion.

Post-Operative Instructions

- Please check your pet's toes below the cast or splint daily for any signs of swelling or pain. Contact us immediately if swelling or discomfort is noted.
- Weekly bandage or cast checks at the clinic are required. The dressing underneath will be changed at each visit. Some cases may require more frequent changes—your veterinarian will advise if this is needed.
- Your pet is permitted to walk while the cast is in place, but must avoid extended walking, running, or jumping.
- Keep the bandage or cast **completely dry**. Use the provided waterproof bag when going outdoors, especially on wet ground. If the cast becomes wet, it must be changed as soon as possible.
- A follow-up x-ray will be needed **8 weeks after surgery** to assess healing before the cast is removed.
- Once the cast is removed, we recommend a consultation with a qualified animal physiotherapist to assist in your pet's recovery. Please ask reception for contact details.

Specific Discharge Instructions

	Sutures • If your pet has intradermal sutures, they do not need to be removed as they will dissolve over time. • If your pet has external sutures or staples, they will need to be removed 14 days after surgery. • Please book an appointment for removal.
	Exercise Restriction • Confine your pet indoors in a small, secure area for 8 weeks. <u>NO</u> running, jumping, or rough play is allowed. • Only leash walks for toileting are permitted. Excessive motion can compromise the surgical repair and may require additional surgery.



Bandage

- Your pet has been discharged with a splint or bandage, which must be changed in 7 days.
- If your pet only has a small bandage from an intravenous line, you may remove this once you get home.



Medications

- Your pet may have been sent home with a **Fentanyl patch**. This should be removed **four days after surgery**.
- Additional pain relief and anti-inflammatory medications may include:
 - **Meloxicam** – Next dose due at: _____
 - **Previcox** – Next dose due at: _____
 - **Carprofen** – Next dose due at: _____

Please read all medication labels carefully and contact us if you have any questions about dosing.

Physiotherapy

Physiotherapy is strongly recommended to support your pet's recovery after cast removal. It helps restore mobility, muscle strength, and comfort.

Diet

- Your pet may continue with their regular diet unless otherwise advised.
- If weight loss is recommended to support healing, a suitable diet plan will be discussed with you.

Laboratory Results

- If a **biopsy** was taken, results are usually available within 5–7 working days.
- If a **culture and sensitivity** test was performed, results may take 7 days or more.
- If a **bone biopsy** was taken, results may take up to 3–4 weeks.
- A veterinarian will contact you with any results as soon as they become available.

Recheck Appointments

- Please return to the clinic for a follow-up visit in:
 - 7 days
 - 14 days
 - 8 weeks for a follow-up radiograph
(fast your pet from midnight before the appointment if sedation may be needed)

Please book your recheck appointments with reception.



If you have any concerns or notice changes in your pet's condition, please contact us immediately.

Thank you for trusting us with your pet's care—we wish them a smooth and successful recovery.

