

GENERAL POST OP FRACTURE REPAIR NOTES – general

Your pet has had their fractured bone repaired using metal implants

The bone will develop a fibrous callus between 2-4 weeks, which will gradually harden to form solid bone. The bone should be functionally healed in approx 6 -8 weeks

All regular post op checks can be carried out by your own vet – usually a 3 day post op + the stitches out in 10-14 days. Any swelling or excess fluid coming from the wound, or discomfort or change in your cat's general condition should be examined quickly by your own vet first. Your cat will have a course of Antibiotics + anti inflammatory drugs – please ensure you complete the whole course + inform your vet if there are any problems

Mr Whiting would like to Re examine your cat usually in 4-6weeks post surgery - please ring the St Columb surgery for an appointment.

Your cat will need to be kept restricted as much as possible during the 6 – 8 week healing period

This will depend very much on the age + personality of your cat

The aim is to keep your cat as restricted (especially jumping of any kind) whilst also not stressing him/her out to the extent they become frantic + then do more damage trying to escape!!

Ideally your cat should be kept in a kennel/crate with enough room for a litter tray, food + water bowls + a big enough bed for them to fully stretch out on for the healing period

However if your cat is very young/active this may be a difficult thing for him/her to adjust to, sometimes a small room, void of furniture to jump on/off, again with room for the above necessities may suit him/her or a cordoned off corner of a room, basically it is different for each cat

If not kept restricted the extra forces on the healing bone + implants will cause extended healing times, possible implant failure or further fractures so although it may seem a bit extreme it is very important

External fixators – if you are using metal mesh for kennel/confined area of any kind please ensure there is a solid cover (either cardboard/wood/plastic sheet) on the inside to ensure the metal fixator doesn't get caught up in it - this would be very dangerous for your cat.

Some stress busters for your cat –

Put their favourite bed/blanket in kennel/confined area to snuggle into + feel super comfy

Keep the crate/confined area in a busy room – so they can see what's going on + don't feel too isolated it helps keeps them distracted + occupied watching all that's going on

Try them with a cat harness + lead + let them out of their kennel (under strict control – never let go of the lead for a moment as they will know + be off like a shot!!) to sit on your lap + have a fuss/cuddle or even a gentle stroll around the room/house (avoid stairs + jumping) and care with interaction with other pets as becomes very excited + try to play/gets tangled up. Once they learn the Harness/lead means they can come out they quickly accept it usually

Break up meal times from once/twice daily to 3-4 times daily + different food/treats (care with weight gain/stomach upsets) or even new toys (possibly with treats in) to break up their time - as long as not too over exuberant at playing/ getting to food.

If home alone for long period of times then leave radio/TV on to distract

In short try to keep them calm/settled, + give them lots of attention whilst their fracture heals