

London Veterinary Services

— in-house surgical referrals —

IMPORTANT DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS: Please read this form carefully when you get home.

We have performed a partial surgical fusion of the ankle (hock) joint using internal fixation. This procedure is called partial tarsal arthrodesis (ParTA) and involves the use of internal metal implants to stabilize the injured ankle whilst part of the joint slowly fuses. This process takes a minimum of 10 weeks. No surgical repair can withstand the rigours of normal exercise, and we must be vigilant to protect the repair very carefully during the early healing phase

Please follow the instructions below very carefully:

- o Use a cage all the time until radiographs are taken at 8 weeks to assess healing. Most pets will feel good enough to exercise, and it is an owners' responsibility to prevent them doing so. Exercise outside the cage will always jeopardize the surgical repair.
- o Every cat we send home with a repaired fracture is caged for a minimum of 8 weeks. Minimal attention in the cage is often less stressful for confined patients. The only chance to allow the fracture to heal without complications is with absolute rest.
- o Please use the E-collar for 10 days a single lick can cause a serious infection and lead to implant loosening and failure of the repair.
- o A dressing has been applied and this needs changing in 2 days and then weekly for a total of 4 weeks. If the bandage becomes soiled or wet or the cat started to chew at it then it needs to be checked by your vets.
- o Any surgical skin wounds should be clean, dry and free from any noxious odours.
- o We expect all animals to urinate within 24-48 hours of going home, and to defaecate within 4-5 days. If this does not happen, or you notice straining without passing of anything, please phone us for advice.

o Please use the liquid painkiller (metacam) once daily either on the food or directly into the mouth for the first 21 days. Side effects are unusual but include general malaise, vomiting, or diarrhoea. Please call us if you notice any of these problems or if you think you may have accidentally given the wrong dose. We have given you a 2 week course of antibiotics please give the full course.

o If you have any worries at all regarding instructions for exercise restriction, medications, limb function, or the ongoing plan, please call us. We will give you some advice over the phone and sometimes organise an early re-check.

o We will perform a re-assessment after 8 weeks, at which time a sedative will be given to allow x-rays to be taken. The exact time of this reassessment will be established at the time of discharge. Please remember not to give any food on the morning of this recheck.

Visit us: londonveterinaryservices.co.uk

Passionate about Surgery. Compassionate about Pets.