

Post-operative Care – Carpal Arthrodesis, Dog

Pet Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Your pet has had their wrist (carpus) fixated with a metal plate and screws to stabilise the joint. This plate with most likely stay in place and not require removal. The joint will not be able to bend, so a change in gait may be noticed.

Caring for your pet after an anaesthetic

Your pet may still be a bit sleepy from the anaesthetic so should be kept warm and quiet at home. The after-effects of the anaesthetic may persist for a couple of days. Offer food and water after the surgery. Your pet will need nutrition to start healing. Any clipped hair will start growing back after a couple of weeks.

Medications: (continue to give any other prescribed medications as instructed)

Medication	Reason	Amount per dose	Frequency of dosing	Length of Course

Post op Appointments:

Post op Check	With	Date	Time	Other Instructions
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				

For VetCW checks, do not feed after 10pm the night before your appointment, but do give water

Post op Instructions:

- Please do not allow your pet to lick or interfere with any surgical wounds and use the buster collar or pet shirt provided.
- This surgery has an increased risk of post-operative infection as the wound is close to the paw. Please keep the wound clean and dry, cover when the dog is out for toileting and use a collar to prevent licking.
- Initially strict rest is required. Please do short, controlled walks out to the garden for toileting until the post-op check with VetCW at 2 weeks. Do not allow jumping or stairs, vigorous play with other pets or off lead garden access and consider cage resting if tolerated. The bone will start to heal by developing a fibrous callus over the first 2-4 weeks. This will gradually harden to form solid bone. The bone should be functionally healed in about 6-8 weeks. Younger dogs tend to heal faster and older ones more slowly.
- At times when your dog is not under strict supervision, they should be kept in a kennel/crate or A small room or a cordoned off corner of a room. Ensure there is enough room for food and water bowls and a big enough bed for them to fully stretch out on.

We do hope your pet has a speedy recovery. If you have any issues, please contact your regular practice for advice. They will contact us if necessary but should be able to help with most questions.

Kind regards,

Colin Whiting and the VetCW Surgical team

Some Doggy Stress Busters

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

Keep the crate/confined area in a busy room so they can see what's going on and don't feel too isolated.

Break up mealtimes from once or twice daily to 3-4 times daily. Try different food and treats (care with weight gain/stomach upsets),

New toys (possibly with treats in) can break up their time - as long as they are not too over exuberant at playing! Stuffing Kongs with peanut butter and some of their food ration will keep them occupied for ages. <https://lickimat.com/> have a range of toys and environmental enrichment products. They can be purchased through Amazon in the UK.

There are some great resources on this website; just remember that exercise at this stage needs to be restricted. <https://positively.com/dog-wellness/dog-enrichment/>

If they are home alone for long period of times, then leave radio/TV on.