

Extracapsular anterior cruciate ligament repair - Post Operative Instructions

Extracapsular repair involves placing implants to stabilise the knee joint.

- {AnimalName} will have a dressing placed on the leg mainly to prevent post operative swelling and to certain degree restrict movement which will help in the healing process and in eliminating pain. This dressing is needed only for a few days (3-10 days) depending on circumstances. The owner is requested to check the dressing twice daily placing a finger between the paw and the dressing to monitor warmth and to assess the feeling response by squeezing it gently. It is important to keep the dressing dry. You will be supplied with a plastic bag which needs to be placed on the foot before walking {AnimalName} outside. The plastic bag prevents any moisture getting to the foot and causing an infection. Remove the bag when {AnimalName} comes back inside.
- The first revisit is 3-5 days after surgery to check if the dressing is in good supportive condition and not causing any problems such as clumping under the knee joint or sliding down the leg.
- The second revisit is at 10 days after surgery - the dressing is removed (if not removed earlier) and the sutures are removed also. You will be asked if you want injections of Pentosan polysulphate for your dog. Pentosan polysulphate is known to improve health of the joints by increasing the viscosity of joint fluid. This treatment is optional and requires 4 injections 5-7 days apart. We also advise you to give your dog glucosamine and/or fish oil daily to keep joints healthy.
- After 10 days {AnimalName} can be taken for walks or swims if the circumstances permit. The walks should initially be short, then the distance can gradually be increased to pre injury work load at about 4 weeks after surgery.
- Walking your dog in shallow water is advised from 2-3 weeks after surgery.
- The post surgical result is judged after 4-5 months.
- Your dog's paw may be slightly abducted (turned out) for a few months.
- Massage and gentle stretching of the knee joint is suggested from about 10 days after surgery.

NOTE: All medications must be given according to instructions.

**If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the clinic 54455288
www.chancellorparkvetsurgery.com.au**