

Postoperative care after patellar luxation surgery

1 Exercise restrictions

First 3 weeks: carry outside if your pet is small or if he/she is larger roll up a towel and place it in front of his/her hind legs to act as a safety sling in case your pet slips. After 5-7 days, you can generally stop using the towel.

Next 6 weeks: leash walk to urinate and defecate. At 4 weeks after surgery your pet should be able to tolerate 5 minute leash walks, and at about 8-9 weeks 10-20 minute leash walks.

2. Some swelling of the wound is normal, as is some bruising which can be very dark red. Often as healing progresses, the swelling can move down the leg to the ankle and the bruising can spread out. You should become concerned that your pet may have an infection IF:

A: the wound becomes very swollen or discharges a yellow or green material

B: your dog suddenly stops using the leg or becomes very depressed or lethargic.

If these signs occur, you should contact us at 813 901 5100

Sometimes the wound will ooze some blood during the first 24-48 hours at home. You should not be alarmed at this; you can hold a cotton sponge over it for 5-10 minutes to stop the bleeding.

You may also notice some swelling at the point of the knee, and you may be able to feel small pins at this site. This is normal, since in some cases pins are used to re-align the knee cap, they are usually not removed unless they cause lameness and pain or migrate through the skin.

3. What is a normal postoperative course?

For the first 2-4 weeks your pet will probably hold the leg up most of the time and then start to place it and then progressively improve. Small breed dogs such as yorkies, poodles etc. will often hold the leg up for longer (i.e. 3-4 weeks). If you are concerned that your pet is not improving well enough, please call your Veterinarian for advice. It may take several days before your pet has a bowel movement, this is normal, since anesthesia can slow intestinal movement.