



Post-Operative Instructions: Orthopedic Implant Removal (Explantation)

Summary: Thank you for trusting your pet to our surgical care. Your pet has been anesthetized for the purposes of removing an orthopedic implant. A vast majority of these removals were needed to ensure comfort for the pet, and integrity of the initial repair. Certainly there are exceptions, but removal of the implant does not 'un-do' the original surgery! The bones have already healed and the implants are not necessary and are redundant and whether because of recurrent infection, 'rejection', migration or implant breakage, it has been determined that the best way to manage your pet's health and performance is to remove the implants. Incidentally, in northern Europe it is a custom in a majority of orthopedic repairs to schedule and prophylactically remove all orthopedic implants!

Although the removal of the implant required heavy sedation or anesthesia, the level of recovery necessary for full recovery is, in general, much shorter, and much less intense than the original surgery itself. It is essential to allow your pet time to heal and to avoid injury during recuperation.

Please strictly follow the instructions below.

Recovery Instructions:

1. Activity:
 - No running, jumping, free access to stairs, or rough playing with other pets or children.
 - Do not allow any unrestricted or off-leash activity, or free access to stairs or slippery floors.
 - Restrict activity for the next 2-3 weeks to allow complete healing of the surgical site.
 - Activity must be limited to very short leash walks three times daily for the purpose of going outside to the bathroom only.
2. Incision:

- Monitor the incision daily for signs of infection such as increased redness, swelling or discharge. If you observe any of these signs or if the surgical site suddenly becomes painful to the touch please call us immediately.
- If your pet licks the incision, he/she must wear an E-collar until the staples are removed as licking can provide a source of infection.
- Keep the incision clean and dry (do not apply anything to the incision). No bathing or swimming for 14 days.

3. Medications:

- Give all medications as directed and call us if you believe your pet is having an adverse reaction to any of the prescriptions.

If we have performed a culture of the implant at the time of removal, we may call in 4-5d to discuss those results and potentially alter the course or type of antibiotic to administer to your pet

- If your pet loses his/her appetite, begins vomiting or develops diarrhea or dark/tarry stool please call us immediately.

4. Food:

- Your pet should have access to water at all times and eat their normal diet.

5. Recheck:

- Please schedule an appointment for suture/staple removal 10-12 days after surgery.

6. Questions:

- Our foremost interest is your pet's rapid and complete recovery: Do not hesitate to call if you have any questions or concerns.