

Tibial Tuberosity Advancement (TTA) Pre & Post-Operative Surgical Care



A successful surgical outcome relies almost entirely on what happens after the surgery. You, the owner, play a vital role in your pet's recovery and return to normal activity. Here are a few things you will need to know and prepare for in order to provide your pet with the best environment for recovery. Your pet's full recovery time will be 12 weeks.

Preparing Your Home

- You will need a large crate or alternative arrangement to make a safe 4ft by 6ft confined space. Your pet will only be allowed outside on a leash to go to the bathroom and will then return to the crate or confined space. Your pet should not be allowed to run, jump, play, or climb on furniture or stairs.
- A sling may be purchased in order to help your pet get in or out of the car, upstairs, or to walk outside to go to the bathroom. Not all patients need this at home. If you think your pet may need a sling, please ask us.
- Let the nursing staff know if you have an E collar (Elizabethan Collar/lampshade) at home; you will need one and we will fit one to your pet before discharge.
- Once home, you will be doing both warm and cold packing of the surgical site. Electrical heating pads should *not* be used. Warm wash cloths, or microwavable "rice" pillow packs may be used.

The First Few Days

- Your pet will be very tired and will sleep more than usual during the first 24-48 hours. He/She should be kept in a safe, quiet, and warm confined space with access to drinking water.
- Be sure to administer all medications as directed.
- Sedation may be necessary to keep your pet quiet during the recovery period. If you believe your pet would benefit from a sedative, please contact us or your veterinarian.
- If your pet's behavior is overly whiny or concerning to you, please call VESH for further advice. Sometimes medications may need to be adjusted.
- Your pet's bowel movements may slow or be non-existent shortly after coming home; this is normal due to the pain medication and the pre-surgery fasting.
- The e-collar must be worn at all times and will be necessary until suture/staple removal (10-14 days). **Your pet MUST NOT lick the incision site!** Licking can introduce infection and will delay the healing process and can potentially cause failure of the entire surgery.
- Your pet may begin to put light weight on the operated limb immediately following surgery, and this is normal.
- Your pet should not be allowed to have any uncontrolled activity (running, jumping, or walking stairs) for 12 weeks following surgery.

