

Gailor Animal Hospital Orthopedic Discharge Form

Patient Name _____

Type of Surgery _____

Date of Surgery _____

Date of First Re-check exam _____ (call for appt.)

Recovery /Rehab Details:

1. **STRICT CONFINEMENT** (cage or small area 3' x 4') for first 72 hours or until patient is "toe-touching." Then allow patient to move only on level surface with good footing (carpet or grass.) Avoid stairs, running, jumping or letting animal on furniture or bed. Take patient outside for restroom breaks under leash control at all times.
2. **ISOMETRIC EXERCISES.** Move your pet's leg in the range of motion as if the leg were trying to peddle a bicycle. Slowly stretching and extending the leg will speed the recovery. Begin these exercises as soon as the pet will allow, gradually increasing the range of motion as permitted.
3. **MEDICATIONS** Your pet will go home on antibiotics and pain medicine. Give these medicines exactly as prescribed. Should your pet show continued signs of pain (panting, inappetence, irritability) please notify our office. Give the antibiotics until they are finished. Joint supplements such as glucosamine are also recommended. (*Lubrisyn, Cosequin*)
4. **DIET** Your pet will slowly return to a normal appetite, but this may take several days following such a major procedure. Small, frequent feedings are preferred as animals recover. Diets which are supplemented with products to reduce arthritis and rebuild joint cartilage are available and recommended for your pet following this surgery. These diets include *Senior Plus* by Iams and *j/d diet* by Science Diet (Hills).
5. **RE-CHECK SCHEDULE** The typical recheck schedule will include a visit 10 days post-op to examine the incision, remove any bandage or sutures, and detail the rehab schedule. Subsequent rechecks will be scheduled every 2 weeks to continue the recovery for your pet. At these rechecks your pet will gradually be allowed to increase the frequency and duration of activities until he returns to a non-restricted routine. You will be instructed as to what exercises and movements are to be used for your pet's rehab. The typical recovery period may last 6 to 12 weeks.

Please contact our office 367-6400 should you have any questions or concerns. The success of this procedure depends on the diligence of your care at home.