



8049 Brookville Road
Indianapolis, IN 46239
317-353-6143

Take Home Instructions

Femoral Head Removal

The Femoral Head is the ball of the "ball and socket" joint that is the hip. Your pet has had the femoral head removed to allow a false joint to form. This remodeled joint is going to take some time to be comfortable and strong, but in most cases will be a very good joint for your pet.

The reasons for this surgery are many. In each case, we are attempting to convert a painful ball and socket joint into a comfortable gliding joint.

During the first days after the surgery, we don't expect your pet to bear weight on the leg. As comfort improves, there will be toe touching for balance, then occasional steps and then full weight bearing. **During the time of recovery, gentle range of motion exercises will be helpful. Try to stretch the hip out to the limit of comfort, hold for the count of 10 and then let the joint relax. Repeat the exercise 10 times twice daily.**

Help your pet stand and walk during the first days of recovery. You may need to use a towel looped under the abdomen to help with walking. Try to keep your pet on good footing to make walking easier.

Both hips are affected with hip dysplasia and the left may need surgery in the future.

Incision:

1. Monitor your pet's incision for any oozing, redness, swelling, odor, or discharge. These can be a sign of infection. Please contact us if you notice any of these.
2. Do not allow your pet to lick at the incision, as this can cause infection. An Elizabethan collar may be purchased here, at your veterinarian's office, or a pet store to prevent licking at the incision.
3. The staples or sutures need to be removed in 10-14 days. This can be done with us or at your veterinarian's office. If you wish to have them removed here, please call to schedule an appointment.
4. We need to see your pet back for a recheck appointment in 3 weeks. If there are any problems or concerns, please give us a call.

Exercise:

Your pet must have exercise restrictions during the first few weeks to allow for healing. This means no running, jumping, play, etc. Please take your pet out on a leash to eliminate and then back in the house. When unsupervised your pet needs to be kept in a crate or small room (with no furniture to jump on or off of).

Please call if you have any questions.

Thank you for choosing Brookville Road Animal Hospital to care for your pet.

G.T. Lee, DVM