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## **Take Home Instructions**

### **Humeral Condylar Fracture**

Your pet suffered trauma that fractured the humeral condyle. This is the lower portion of the humerus that forms part of the elbow joint. Most often the lateral condyle is fractured. Whether the trauma was a fall or being hit by a vehicle, the tissues around the joint are swollen and will take time to decrease in size.

The condyle is an important part of the elbow joint. It must be accurately and firmly repaired to allow the elbow to resume normal function. This serious injury has been repaired with stainless steel implants.

Instructions:

1. The humeral condyle has been repaired with stainless steel implants. These may include a screw across the condyle and a pin. These implants will hold the bone in its correct position until the fracture has healed. This process will take approximately 8 weeks. During this period if your pet is over active the fixation may fail and will require additional surgery to repair.
2. Exercise restriction is very important during the healing process. There should be no running, jumping, playing etc... Your pet should be confined to a small room ( no furniture to jump on and off) or a crate when unsupervised. When supervised they may be out with you. You should take your pet outside to the bathroom on a leash and back in the house.
3. Monitor the incision for redness, oozing, swelling or pain. These can be signs of infection and we should be notified immediately.
4. The sutures or staples should be removed in 10-14 days. This may be done here or at your veterinarian. If you wish to have it done here please call to schedule an appointment.
5. Your pet should begin to use their leg by the second week after surgery and gradually become more sound over the course of the healing period (8 weeks). If this does not occur or if your pet is doing well and becomes acutely painful or lame we should be notified immediately.
6. We need to recheck your pet at any point your pet is not progressing. If everything is going well we need to see you and your pet for a recheck and possible x-rays in 3 weeks to assess healing. Please call to schedule an appointment.
7. Rarely do implants need to be removed but there are cases that do require another surgery to remove the implant. The reasons for removing an implant is pain, migration or infection.

Please feel free to call with any questions or concerns.