



Brookville Road
Animal Hospital

8049 Brookville Road
Indianapolis, Indiana 46239
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Take Home Instructions

Hemilaminectomy

Your pet had a myelogram, which is a procedure that involves the injection of a contrast material into the spinal canal. This is performed under an anesthetic. The contrast flows around the spinal cord and tells us where the compression of the cord is occurring. It is the pressure on the spinal cord that causes the loss of function. The most common cause of the pressure is a ruptured disk.

Once the area of compression was identified a procedure called a hemilaminectomy was performed. That surgery allows us to remove the disc material from around the spinal cord. We use a small nitrogen driven burr to remove a small portion of the bone of the vertebra directly over the spinal cord. With this opening of the spinal canal it is possible to remove the herniated disc material.

Because we are removing a portion of the bone of the vertebrae it is important for the bone to heal. It is necessary to limit activity during the healing process to prevent any further damage.

It is important for you to know that this can happen again at another disc space. The good news is that a second disk rupture is not common. We recommend that you change the habits of your pet to eliminate jumping on and off furniture.

Instructions:

1. Exercise restriction for 4 to 6 weeks or until your pet is walking well. If your pet is unable to walk do not let it pull itself around the house for extended time. As he/she begins to walk, allow no running, jumping, stairs etc... They should go outside to the bathroom and come back into the house. I would recommend keeping him/her in a crate when unsupervised.
2. Monitor the incision for any signs of infection: Redness, swelling, oozing or pain. Please notify us if this should occur.
3. Sutures may be removed in 10-14 days. This may be done here or at your veterinarian's office.
4. Do not allow your pet to lick at the incision. Should this occur please obtain and use an e-collar.
5. We need to recheck your pet in 3 weeks to check on his/her progress. If there are any problems or concerns before then, please give us a call.

Physical Therapy:

1. During the recovery period you should work with the rear legs to build strength. This involves the following:

Standing:

Place your pet in a standing position, by placing the rear legs in a weight supporting position. Help your pet support weight and regain strength by using a sling under the abdomen if necessary. At first it may seem as though you are holding all the weight but over time this should change.

Do this as often as you can and for as long as they will tolerate without getting very tired or painful.

Range of Motion:

For 10-15 minutes at a time place the limbs through range of motion. Pedal them like a bicycle but flexing and extending their knees. You may also flex and extend the hips.

Urination:

1. Make sure your pet is urinating on its own. If you feel it is not, please notify us or your veterinarian so they we may address this issue.

Thank you for choosing Brookville Road Animal Hospital

G. T. Lee