

DOWNES

Veterinary Surgeons

Recovering from surgery: orthopaedics

After orthopaedic surgery

If your pet is recovering from major orthopaedic surgery it will require home nursing care in order to ensure a successful outcome.

Care consists primarily of **restricting your pet's activity**. Your pet will not understand the nature of their injury and, unlike humans with similar injuries, will become active in a short period of time even if the activity causes pain.

Therefore, restriction of activity is of paramount importance. This means confining your pet to the indoors: no jumping, no running, no stairs, and no "rough-housing."

When taken outdoors to perform its toilet, your pet **must** be restrained by a lead and when finished, must be returned **immediately** indoors.

If your pet is to be left alone, they must be confined to an area in which they cannot hurt themselves, for example, a small room or cage. This degree of confinement is especially important during the first 3 to 4 weeks after surgery, and should be continued for the entire 6 to 8 week convalescent period. **Failure to heed these simple precautions may result in re-injury and complications with the ultimate need for repeat surgery.**

This would mean additional pain and discomfort for your pet, and additional cost for you, all of which may be avoidable.

Please keep your pet's well-being in mind during their recovery in order to minimize complications.

*heart says walkies...
head says no*



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If you're not sure how to do it – phone us up – we'll talk you through it!