

POST-SURGICAL HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

Dr. Albert Charles Lynch – ACL Surgery LLC

Hospital Name: _____

Patient Name: _____

Procedure Performed: _____

Discharge Date: _____

PLEASE READ AND COMPLY WITH THESE INSTRUCTIONS

- If there is anything about them you do not understand, please call your veterinarian for clarification.

PLEASE CALL YOUR GENERAL VETERINARIAN FOR CLARIFICATION OR GUIDANCE REGARDING

- Medication questions, concerns or refills
- Post-anesthesia concern with your pet's bowel movements, urination, behavior or comfort
- Medical concerns regarding your pet
- Financial estimates or questions
- Scheduling of any kind
- Post-surgical recheck exams

PLEASE EMAIL DR. LYNCH'S NURSE REGARDING

- Progress updates every two weeks as detailed on Dr. Lynch's website (dralbertlynch.com)
- Please include your general veterinarian/hospital in this email

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

- Contact your general veterinarian/hospital

MEDICATIONS

Your **general practitioner** will send home any pain management or other medications necessary

- Antibiotic Medication: _____
 - Timing of next dose _____
- Pain Medication: _____
 - Timing of next dose _____
- Anti-inflammatory Pain Medication _____
 - Timing of next dose _____
- Anti-Anxiety/Sedation Medication: _____
 - Timing of next dose _____
- Other Medication: _____
 - Timing of next dose _____

Your pet may be permitted to get their anti-anxiety/sedation medication one hour after they get home post-surgery – Please ask your primary veterinarian to confirm this is permitted

YOUR PETS BEHAVIOR DURING THEIR FIRST NIGHT POST SURGERY

- **Attention seeking behavior and whimpering/vocalizing is common the first night following your pet's anesthetic. This is not a pain response.**
- You may be able to give your pet their prescribed **Trazodone and Gabapentin** to help mitigate this response – Please confirm this with your general veterinarian at the time of discharge.

LIMB NUMBNESS AND NOCITA (Numbing agent)

- If your pet received a nerve block and nocita, then their limb may be numb for 3-4 days. Your pet may “knuckle over” their foot when walking during this period

BRUISING AND SWELLING

- Bruising will begin showing up within 24 hours. Swelling may take up to 4 days to show up fully.
- Ice therapy (wrap an ice pack in a thin towel) will help but must be done with safety in mind. If your pet resents you placing the ice pack near their incision, do not force it to happen and do NOT chase them or pin them down.
- Try placing the ice pack near their surgical site as they are laying down, then tell them that they are a good boy/girl. This “drive by” ice pack drop off tends to be more successful than physically holding the ice pack to their leg, which can make them uneasy.
- Your pet WILL prefer to lay on their surgery limb post-surgery – This is safe and not a cause for concern

DIET AND BOWEL MOVEMENTS/URINATION

- Do not feed excessively or change diet without doctor’s orders – Diet change can cause gastrointestinal upset
- Bowel movements and urination may be less frequent. Please ensure water is offered directly to your pet in the first two weeks post-surgery

PROTECTIVE CONE

- Your pet MUST wear an appropriate cone until his/her incision has fully healed and your veterinarian directs you to remove the cone. Diligently monitor your pet to ensure they cannot get to their incision – Contact your primary veterinarian with any concerns.
- For cones with loops – Ensure that you place a collar through these loops and make the collar snug (you should be able to put two fingers between your pet’s collar and their neck to ensure comfortable breathing), to prevent them from kicking the cone off
- Removing the cone is unacceptable and can lead to serious complications

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS

- If there is a bandage, keep it clean and dry; check it twice daily for dampness, soiling, bad odors or slippage, check the toes for any increase in swelling, and monitor for any signs of discomfort by your pet. If you notice any of these signs, notify your general practitioner.
- If there is no bandage, check the incision twice daily for any increase in swelling, drainage or missing sutures (NOTE that some swelling is expected for a few days after surgery). If you see those signs, call your veterinarian. Apply cold compress, through a cloth, to the incision for 10-15 minutes 2-3 times daily for 2-3 days after surgery, to reduce swelling.
- If there is an adhesive band-aid (white sticky bandage) covering the incision, then this may stay on for three days. If it is still in place after three days, then please remove it gently (you may get it damp with warm water to help remove it). **If it is difficult to remove, then please go to the pharmacy and purchase adhesive remover (E.g. “Easy-Off”).**

ACTIVITY - General

- Ensure that you have set up an appropriate **RECOVERY ZONE**, as detailed by your pre-surgical resources.
- IT IS EXTREMELY important to keep your pet under **VERY STRICT CONFINEMENT** for 8-10 weeks. Keep your pet in a large kennel or a small room **without furniture or steps** when not supervised, on **FLAT NON-SLIP FLOORING**. He/she may be in the house with you, or go outside for elimination, **ONLY** if kept securely on a **short leash**. Prevent jumping on or off furniture or going up/down steps.
- You may sling a bath towel around your pet's waist for getting in or out of cars or on steps. Keep him/her on a leash at all times, indoors and outdoors.
- FREQUENCY of movement is most important to your pet's recovery and preventing stiffness – It is more beneficial to go for ten walks that are 2-3 minutes in duration compared to one or two walks that are longer in duration
- Keep your pets walking pace **SLOW** – If your pet is not placing their foot on the ground during the walk, then you may be going too fast. **SLOW IT DOWN**.
- NOTE: Stairs are **NOT** permitted unless specifically directed and approved – If you have a large pet and cannot safely carry him/her, then do **NOT** attempt to do this. Contact your primary veterinarian for guidance
- NOTE: **MUST** be kept on a leash at all times, **INDOORS AND OUT**, for 8-10 weeks
- NOTE: **MUST** keep the protective cone on, until suture removal or incision evaluated and confirmed to be healed
- NOTE: **MUST** not run, jump, play, get on furniture or go off-leash until permitted by Dr. Lynch.
- NOTE: Ensure that there is no loose bedding in your pets recovery zone – This can get caught on their leg and lead to complications.

ACTIVITY – TPLO or fracture

- Starting three days post-surgery, begin assisted weight bearing and weight shifting exercises indoors in your recovery zone. These exercises should continue for 8-10 weeks, and be performed at least five times daily.
- Your pet may go outside with your assistance only for bathroom purposes until the incision has healed.
- Two weeks after surgery, you may begin going for 2-3 minute walks on a **FLAT NON-SLIP** surface 3-5 times daily. Each week you may add up to 2-3 minutes onto your pets walk duration as long as it is tolerated (not sore or limping after walks). By week four, do not exceed 10 minute walks 3-5 times daily. By week 8 do not exceed 20 minutes walks 2-3 times daily
- Professional physical therapy may be started 6-8 weeks after the operation. Contact your primary veterinarian before beginning professional physiotherapy for approval. Do not do any limb manipulation unless instructed by a professional.
- NOTE – **BILATERAL TPLO**: For the first two weeks post-surgery, your pet **MUST** be assisted with a harness or sling at **ALL** times. You are required to perform assisted weight bearing and walking therapy at least five times daily (five repetitions of 10 seconds), beginning three days post-surgery. Monitor your pet's harness, if being utilized, to ensure there are no rub sores (inner thigh and side of tail especially). It is advised for you to upload a photo of your pet's incisions every two days until healed.

ACTIVITY – Patellar Luxation

- It is imperative that your pet is **ONLY** allowed on a **FLAT NON-SLIP SURFACE** and is not permitted to jump.
- Starting three days post-surgery, begin assisted weight bearing and weight shifting exercises indoors in your recovery zone. These exercises should continue for 8-10 weeks, and be performed at least five times daily.
- Your pet may go outside with your assistance only for bathroom purposes until the incision has healed.
- Two weeks after surgery, you may begin going for 2-3 minute walks on a **FLAT NON-SLIP** surface 3-5 times daily. Each week you may add up to 2-3 minutes onto your pets walk duration as long as it is tolerated (not sore or limping after walks). By week four, do not exceed 10 minute walks 3-5 times daily. By week 8 do not exceed 20 minutes walks 2-3 times daily

ACTIVITY – Femoral Head Osteotomy (FHO)

- It is imperative that your pet is scheduled for **PROFESSIONAL PHYSIOTHERAPY** beginning at two weeks post-surgery
- You must perform passive hip extension exercises starting three days post-surgery. With these exercises, you will slowly lift your pet's front two paws off the ground so that they are standing on their hind two legs, on a flat non-slip surface, thus encouraging them to extend their hip that had surgery and place their operated limb on the ground. They are standing in one place for this (do **NOT** have them walk while performing this exercise). This must be performed at least five times daily (five repetitions of 10 seconds)
- You may begin going for 2-3 minute walks on a **FLAT NON-SLIP** surface 3-5 times daily, beginning three days post-surgery

ACTIVITY – Ulnar osteotomy

- It is imperative that your pet is **ONLY** allowed on a **FLAT NON-SLIP SURFACE** and is not permitted to jump.
- Starting three days post-surgery, begin assisted weight bearing and weight shifting exercises indoors in your recovery zone. These exercises should continue for 8-10 weeks, and be performed at least five times daily.
- Your pet may go outside with your assistance only for bathroom purposes until the incision has healed.
- Two weeks after surgery, you may begin going for 2-3 minute walks on a FLAT NON-SLIP surface 3-5 times daily. Each week you may add up to 2-3 minutes onto your pets walk duration as long as it is tolerated (not sore or limping after walks). By week four, do not exceed 10 minute walks 3-5 times daily. By week 8 do not exceed 20 minutes walks 2-3 times daily
- Schedule bandage changes with your primary veterinarian every week, or as needed based on cleanliness of the bandage. The bandage will be in place for 4 weeks minimum.

RECOMMENDED RECHECK SCHEDULE WITH YOUR GENERAL PRACTITIONER

- Please ask your general veterinarian prior to discharge if your pet needs to schedule a recheck in-hospital for suture removal, bandage removal or x-rays.
 - Rechecks requiring X-rays will require sedation; therefore, do NOT feed the morning of those appointments.
 - Recheck appointments, sedation, X-rays and other intervention will be an additional fee at the discretion of your primary veterinary hospital.

PERSONAL PROTECTION WARNING

Infrequently, a patient may show an increase in defensive behavior, such as biting, after surgery. During recovery from surgery, especially the first two weeks, **HANDLE THE PATIENT WITH EXTRA CARE. DO NOT ALLOW CHILDREN TO COME IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE PATIENT. AVOID PROXIMITY OF YOUR FACE TO THE PATIENT.**

PET OWNER OR OWNER'S AGENT SIGNATURE AND DATE

I acknowledge that I have read, and that I understand, these instructions

AUTHORIZED HOSPITAL AGENT/DISCHARGING NURSE SIGNATURE AND DATE

I acknowledge that I have reviewed and detailed these instructions to the pet owner or authorized agent present
