



Neurosurgery Aftercare Information Sheet

Joshua Bruce, DVM, DACVS-SA

Surgery: Your pet had a hemilaminectomy performed. A large amount of disc material was removed from the cord. Your pet did well under anesthesia and recovered without incident.

Medications:

Diet: Normal

Exercise: Restrict activity for the next 6 weeks. Short leash walks are permitted for urination and bowel movements only. No running, jumping, climbing stairs or roughhousing with other pets or people. You may need to assist your pet with walking by using a sling under the abdomen initially.

Urination: Please be sure that your pet is urinating normally. It is common for animals who cannot use their back legs normally to have trouble urinating. If your pet is dribbling urine continuously or posturing without passing any urine, please see Dr. Bruce as soon as possible for a recheck. If your pet is not walking well and unable to urinate, you may need to express the bladder 3-4 times daily. We will show you how to perform this.

Incision: Please check the incision for signs of infection: redness, swelling, pain or discharge. Do not allow your pet to lick at the incision. An E collar or t-shirt should be used to keep your pet from licking at the incision.

Suture Removal: Please have the sutures removed by Dr. Bruce 10-14 days from the day of surgery. Please make an appointment with Dr. Bruce in that time frame.

Follow-Up: Please make an appointment in 6 weeks for neurologic recheck with Dr. Bruce prior to encouraging normal activity. If you feel that steady improvement is not being made, please schedule a recheck sooner.

Physiotherapy: Physiotherapy should be started right away. This is done by flexing and extending the hips and knees in a bicycle motion. Do this 3-4 times daily for 5 minutes. You should also encourage your pet to stand. Place your pet's feet appropriately while supporting under the pelvis. You can then gently rock your pet side to side to encourage weight shifting.

Physical therapy with a certified veterinary therapist will allow faster and more complete return to function. Please feel free to make an appointment with them at any time. Even if you are not interested in multiple sessions with them, they can teach you at home exercises that you can perform with your pet.