

Tibial Crest After Care For Chanda

19 June, 2017
Dr Kunal Nagaich

Chanda has had a surgical procedure today at Sandown Vet Clinic which involved inserting pins through the tibial crest and refixing it back to the tibia bone. Unfortunately dogs do not always understand that they must rest so we need you to assist us with Chanda 's recovery. To ensure maximum rate of recovery, please give attention to the following points:

Immediately After

When you pick Chanda up from our hospital she may be a little drowsy. This is quite normal following an anaesthetic and surgery. The drowsiness should reduce over the next 12 – 24 hours. There will be some bruising so Chanda should not be expected to return to normal for a few days.

Keep Chanda in a quiet, warm place and do not allow children or other pets to over excite her. Please give Chanda only small amounts to eat and drink for the first 24 hours; we advise to feed half of her normal meal tonight.

You may notice that a small area of hair has been clipped from Chanda 's foreleg or neck. This will have been done to permit access to the vein; **please remove the small bandaid in 2 hours if Chanda still has one on her front leg at time of discharge.**

Wound Care

It is vital that Chanda is not allowed to lick or tear at her sutures. If the external stitches are removed, the surgery wound can reopen, resulting in costly re-stitching of the site. We advise the use of preventative collars which are available from our clinic.

It is important the sutures stay dry and clean. No baths or water activities until Chanda 's **sutures are removed at approximately 10 – 14 days after surgery.** Please ring the clinic to arrange an appointment to have these removed.

Strict confinement for 21 days following the surgery. The laundry, bathroom or a dog crate is the best place to keep Chanda confined. she will need assistance getting up and down from high places.

The pin may protrude slightly through the skin during the weeks after surgery. However, this should not create a problem for Chanda or interfere in the healing process.

Chanda should be **x-rayed four weeks after the initial operation** to assess the rate of healing and generally the pin is removed about this time. Please arrange an appointment with our receptionist.

Problems

Generally there are very few complications after the operation, however, there are some signs to watch for that may indicate a problem.

1. Dull and listless (especially after the first 48 hours)
2. Not eating or changes in drinking patterns
3. Not toileting after 48 hours
4. Redness, swelling, lumpiness or irritation around the suture line
5. Fluid coming from the surgical site

6. Sutures coming loose (if Chanda is licking at her sutures she MUST wear an Elizabethan collar)

**If you notice any of these signs please do not hesitate to call our clinic on 9547 6666.
For after hours Emergency care and advice call 1300 232 838**