

Jaw Fracture After Care Instructions

Website: www.mobilepetdentistry.com.au

Email: info@mobilepetdentistry.com.au

Your pet..... has had a thorough oral assessment, dental X-rays, and a jaw fracture repair.

After discharge from the hospital, your pet must be restricted from activity to allow the fracture time to heal.

Activity must be restricted for several weeks after surgery; the duration will vary depending on the severity of the injury and any concurrent injuries your pet may have. Restricted activity means that the animal should be kept confined to a carrier, crate, or small room whenever your pet cannot be supervised.

It is important, especially if you live in a hot climate, that your pet be kept in a cool, preferably air-conditioned room to prevent heat stress and excessive panting.

It is especially important that your pet not be allowed to chew on toys or other objects and be fed only soft food or softened kibble that does not require much chewing (or a diet prescribed by your primary care veterinarian).

If your pet has a tape or similar muzzle in place, to help the fracture to heal, then it is important that you only remove the muzzle to allow your pet to eat or drink, and then place it back on. The muzzle should be kept clean/dry at all times, to prevent any infections occurring where the muzzle sits against the skin. This muzzle is extremely important because it keeps the fracture ends close together, to allow the fracture to heal.

With cats or small dogs, that have a feeding tube placed, and may also have had their teeth bonded together, it is important that you feed your pet, as directed, through the feeding tube in the neck. The use of a daily antiseptic squirted onto the teeth is also recommended (see below).

Fractures that are repaired with wires +/- acrylic around the teeth need to be monitored daily for signs of any discharge or bad smell (please speak to your primary care veterinarian if you notice a bad smell from the mouth).

We recommend that an antiseptic solution (such as Chlorhexidene), that your primary care practice can provide, be squirted around the teeth once daily.

We also advise weekly rechecks with your primary care practice to assess that the healing of the fracture.

Approximately *6-8 weeks* after the initial surgery, a follow-up recheck, under general anaesthetic, will be required. The jaw will need to be X-rayed again, to make certain that the bone has healed properly. If the fracture has healed, as expected, the wires +/- acrylic placed around the teeth, will be removed and your pet's activity level and diet will be reassessed for a staged return to normal function. Sometimes, further time may be required for the fracture to heal. We will advise you re the extra time required.

If you have any concerns, do not hesitate to contact your primary care veterinary practice, or contact us via email or mobile phone number

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Causes of jaw fractures

Jaw fractures can be caused by trauma such as falls, motor car accidents or fights, but they can also occur due severe gum disease, that could cause significant bone loss around teeth and lead to a jaw fracture. This type of fracture can be difficult to manage. We advise regular dental checks and professional cleans to help prevent gum disease-related jaw fractures.

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