

Northview Animal Hospital
7601 Anaheim NE
Albuquerque, NM 87122
Clinic- 505-828-1136 Fax- 505-797-2495

Cruciate/ Patella Surgery Aftercare Instructions

- Ice pack the knee region for fifteen minutes, three times daily for five days. Two large bags of frozen peas wrapped in dishtowels work well as ice packs, and conform well to the knee.
- Begin range of motion exercises (back and forth, bending and extending) with the knee joint as soon as your pet will allow manual manipulation, and preferably immediately after ice packing.
- For the next eight weeks activity should be strictly limited to short leash walks (1/8 to ¼ mile) multiple times throughout the day at a slow rate. No running, jumping or explosive activity is allowed during this time.
- Your pet has been sent home with oral antibiotics and anti-inflammatory pain relievers; please give as directed on the labels.
- The pain patch (located on a rear leg) on your pet should be removed in five days; the date should be written on the bandage covering the patch. When you remove the patch from your pet's skin, wear gloves to minimize skin contact and fold the patch in half, sticky sides together. Dispose of the patch by flushing it down the toilet. **Do not let children, pregnant women, or other pets handle the patch.**
- Be sure to call Northview Animal Hospital and set up a recheck exam for **ten to fourteen days** for your pet.
- The long-term use of a cartilage protecting drug containing glucosamine and chondroitin sulfate is recommended due to the presence of arthritis within the knee joint (Ask Dr. Helper for the dosage at your recheck visit). The prognosis is good for return of limb function (>85%) for your pet. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to call; we will be happy to address any issues.