

Fracture Repair

Owner information sheet





The pet you are rehoming was brought into the Scottish SPCA vet clinic some time ago with a fracture (break) in one of its legs, which has since been treated. Usually fractures take 4 - 6 weeks to heal fully but can take longer. The printout of the Vet History you received in your Rehoming Pack will give detail as to how and when the fracture was repaired.

Where they have been used, the stainless-steel implants (plates, screws, and wires) will be left in the leg for the rest of the animal's life. In most cases the animal has a full and active life, however, in a small number of cases it is possible for the implant(s) to move or break. This could occur a long time after the implant(s) was originally placed and usually presents as your animal becoming lame on that leg. If this occurs within the first 6 months of rehoming please contact the SSPCA vet clinic in the first instance, if it is out within that period we would advise that you seek prompt advice from your own vet if you are concerned.

If we intend to get your animal back to the Scottish SPCA for further x-rays or implant removal, we will make arrangements for this with you at the time of rehoming.

In some cases the animal may have a slight gait abnormality or even one leg slightly shorter than the other. This is because not all fractures heal back into a perfect position. Generally, this means that the animal will always have a slight limp but currently this is a mechanical lameness and not due to pain. Due to the trauma on the joint, your pet could develop arthritis later in life. Keeping your animal at a healthy weight will help manage any potential issues.

We would recommend that you contact your pet insurance company as there are likely to be exclusions on your insurance policy for any condition they feel is linked to the previous fracture. Clarification on exclusion should be sought before finalising a policy.

DOGS

For the next 2 - 4 weeks we advise gentle lead-only exercise to build up the dog's fitness and muscle mass. Running off the lead and jumping up are not advised until after the 4 week period and even then should be introduced gradually in a controlled manner.

CATS

Cats will generally alter their behaviour to cope with their condition themselves. Ideally for the first 2 - 4 weeks we would advise house-rest to allow the cat to settle into their new home. Having had a fracture repair does not preclude your cat from going outdoors, should you and your cat wish it.