



## WARREN HOUSE VETERINARY CENTRE

### Post-Hip Toggle Surgery Homecare

Hip toggle surgery is performed in cases with hip luxation/dislocation, often due to trauma or if there is an underlying condition called hip dysplasia. If the hip is left to keep luxating, pieces of bone and cartilage can be lost as they are 'pulled off' the femoral head which can compromise the hip joint. The severity of the condition may not be able to be interpreted fully until the joint is visible during surgery.

A hip toggle is a very strong piece of suture used to stabilise the dislocated hips by holding the 'ball' of the femur (thigh bone) in the socket of the pelvis. Prognosis is generally good after this surgery, though in rare circumstances the hip can re-dislocate in the days/weeks after surgery.

Re-dislocation is more likely with over-extension of the hip during activity which is why this must be prevented. If re-dislocation occurs, or if during surgery the damage is considered too great then a femoral head and neck excision may be recommended.

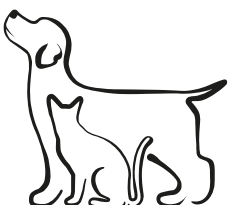
#### **Complications:**

Please notify the practice at once if any of the following occur:

- Vomiting after 24 hours at home
- Diarrhoea
- Refusal to eat or drink after 24 hours at home
- No passing of urine or faeces 24 hours after their procedure
- Signs of severe pain (mild pain and discomfort are normal for the first few days after surgery)
- If your pet acts off or seems "not right" in any other way

#### **What to expect:**

- Strict exercise restriction is essential following surgery, including around the house and in the garden. Running, jumping and climbing should also be prevented.
- Cage rest is strongly and highly recommended following surgery – if one is not available, there are many shops which sell collapsible cages which fold down flat making for easier storage. Though, by 3-5 days, there should be significant weight-bearing on the operated leg.
- Bruising and swelling is normal, swelling may also progress lower down the limb due to gravity, but this should disappear within a few days.





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- Your pet will have a buster collar in place to prevent interference with the wound itself – this must stay in place at all times.
- Small amounts of ooze may be seen in the immediate post operative period, this can be dabbed using kitchen towel; if excessive then attention should be sought.
- Post-Operative Telephone Call – A staff member will call you a few days after the procedure to check on your pet. Do not be alarmed. This is a routine call to find out how your pet is progressing after their surgery.

### **Lickers, Chewers and Chewed out stitches.**

Occasionally pets will lick and chew their incision site. Since little tongues and teeth can do a lot of damage in a short time, this **MUST BE PREVENTED**. To prevent licking and/or chewing at her incision site, it will be necessary to place a buster collar until the wound is healed. These are available from us at no extra cost.

Occasionally pets will develop an infection despite our best efforts to prevent it. This is nearly always due to overactivity and/or due to excessive licking or chewing of the incision and appears as a green/yellow discharge from the wound. Please contact the practice immediately if you feel an infection may present.

### **What's included?**

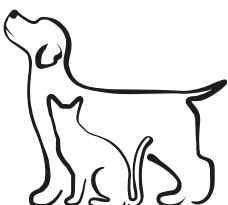
#### **Medication:**

**Antibiotics:** Antibiotics are sometimes prescribed following surgery to prevent infection, these are usually given twice daily for up to a week post-operatively if the Veterinary Surgeon thinks they are necessary.

**Anti-inflammatories:** Anti-inflammatories are prescribed following surgery to provide pain relief and anti-inflammatory action which helps prevent/control swelling, this is usually given once daily.

**Pain Relief:** Extra pain relief can also be provided if the Veterinary Surgeon thinks it will be required to keep your pet comfortable in the post-operative period.

**4 Post-Op Checks** are performed by Veterinary Nurses or veterinary care assistants and are included in the price of your pet's surgery; however, if your pet requires additional treatment such as antibiotics, pain relief or potentially further surgery, the owner is responsible for all costs of necessary treatment because of any





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complications. These complications are all rare and are handled on a case-by-case basis.

Post-op checks are usually carried out at 3 days, 1 week, and 4 weeks post-operatively to ensure your pet is healing correctly and there are no complications following surgery. Please attend these appointments as it is important for us to assess your pet's progress, if anything changes between appointments – please do not hesitate to come back sooner.

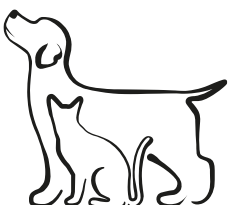
Follow-up x-rays are usually not required; however, if the leg is not healing as expected they may be necessary though they will be at an extra charge.

### **How to improve healing:**

Physiotherapy following this procedure is important for your pet's recovery. Encouraging slight movement is recommended to get your pet to rise and stretch periodically – this can be done by moving food and water bowls slightly out of reach. Though over extension must be avoided so hydrotherapy is not advised. Weight gain should also be prevented to limit the load on the limbs.

By following the guidelines below, you will be able to dramatically speed up your pet's Recovery.

- Offer your pet small amounts of water when you get home and food can be offered a few hours later – we recommend a bland diet such as chicken/white fish and rice/pasta or the food included in your home care package. However, their appetite may not be completely normal for a few days after surgery.
- Check the incision site daily for redness, swelling or discharge. If any of these signs are observed, please, call the practice, and bring your pet by for a recheck as this can be a sign of infection.
- Restrict running, jumping, and climbing stairs.
- Do not give any over-the-counter pain relievers such as paracetamol or ibuprofen as these can be poisonous to pets. We will prescribe non-steroidal pain relief medication for the following 3-5 days after surgery which should keep your pet comfortable during their recovery.
- It is recommended that your dog/cat is kept away from other animals to not cause damage to the incision sites through licking or playing.





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We usually use dissolvable stitches. If your pet had external stitches, they need to be removed in 10-14 days. Please return for this service. There is no extra charge for this unless sedation is required.

Hip toggle surgery is often very successful, the material used is permanent but may break over time though this should not cause any issues as by this time, the joint should have restabilised itself. Some degenerative changes, known as arthritis, may develop within the joint but the Veterinary Surgeon will advise further down the line if this becomes an issue and requires treatment.

Thank you for choosing Warren House Vets for your pet's care. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us:

**Telephone:** 01543 373033

**WhatsApp:** 07999048536.

**Facebook:** Warren House Veterinary Centre Ltd

### Post-Operative Out-of-Hours/Emergency Support



If you have any concerns following your pet's surgery, we offer free out-of-hours veterinary advice support with a UK Registered Vet, over the phone, as a part of our VIP Club.

To sign up please email: [Info@warrenhousevets.co.uk](mailto:Info@warrenhousevets.co.uk)



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