



WARREN HOUSE VETERINARY CENTRE

Post-Limb Amputation Surgery Homecare

Limb amputation is often performed as a last resort after injury or after diagnosis of a tumour. The limb is often removed from the highest point (shoulder – front limbs, pelvis – hind limbs); the lower portion of the limb is only removed in the event of prosthesis, which is only performed at referral practices, but these are rather expensive.

When removing a forelimb, the whole leg is amputated including the shoulder blade as this creates a smooth appearance and avoids leaving bones which can continue moving around which may continue to move around post-operatively. Hindlimbs are removed by either cutting the femur (thigh bone) close to the hip, or by removing the femur from the pelvis at the hip joint.

Forelimbs carry more weight than hind limbs in four-legged animals; therefore, forelimb amputations are generally more debilitating than hindlimb amputations. However, they are typically well tolerated, and animals recover quickly. This is seen especially in cases where the reason for amputation was causing pain as the other legs have already been compensating and building up muscle.

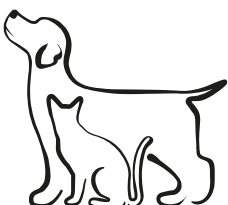
Complications:

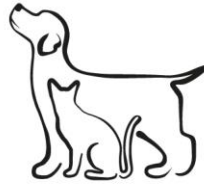
Please notify the practice at once if any of the following occur:

- 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:

- Lead restriction is essential following surgery, including around the house and in the garden. Running, jumping and climbing should also be prevented as the wound is vulnerable to breakdown in the early stages of healing. This should be restricted until at least 2 weeks following surgery to ensure adequate healing.
- Your pet will have a buster collar in place to prevent interference with the wound itself – this must stay in place at all times.





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- Small amounts of ooze may also be seen in the immediate post operative period, this can be dabbed using kitchen towel but if this ooze is 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?

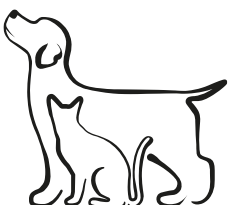
Medication:

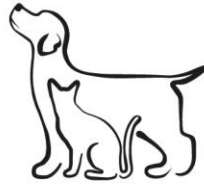
Antibiotics: Antibiotics are sometimes prescribed following surgery to prevent infection, these are usually given twice daily for up to a week post-operatively if the Veterinary Surgeon thinks they are necessary.

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





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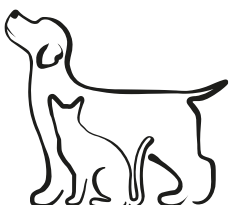
Post-op checks are usually carried out at 3 days, 1 week, and 4 weeks post-operatively to ensure your pet is healing correctly and there are no complications following surgery. Please attend these appointments as it is important for us to assess your pet's progress, if anything changes between appointments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

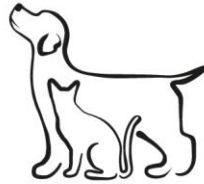
By following the guidelines below, you will be able to dramatically speed up your pet's Recovery.

- 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.

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.

Future treatments with this procedure are possible depending on the reason for amputation. If the amputation was due to a tumour, the prognosis will depend on the type of tumour and how likely it is to have spread. Mobility issues may also be compromised in the future if the other limbs have or develop joint disease such as osteoarthritis.





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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



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Thank You!

