



Helping Your Dog Recover

From Injury, Illness or Surgery



Whether your dog is recovering from an injury, illness or surgery, it is important to look after their needs, ensure they have time and space to recuperate, and follow the directions given to you by your veterinarian. Being a strong leader is sometimes harder for us during this process because we feel sorry for our dogs, but consistent rules and guidance are what our dogs need from us for a safe and speedy recovery.

Rest, sleep and peace

During the recovery process, your dog may not have the same energy level as usual and may want to sleep more. This is a normal reaction to illness or surgery and helps your dog conserve energy, mend tissues and reduce the likelihood of further strain on their body. Your role in the healing process is to minimise distractions, such as children playing, visitors, and other pets that could exacerbate an injury further. This may mean keeping him in a separate room, pen or crate and taking him to the bathroom on a lead, or even carrying them out if necessary. If your dog is confined to a crate, give them a toy such as a Gamechanger® stuffed with their favourite treats to keep them busy and entertained.

If they are separated from the normal family routine, help them to not feel excluded by recording the daily sounds they are accustomed to and playing them back to them on a CD talking, getting meals ready, making coffee, opening and closing doors. You could also play some calming music to help them relax.

Medical needs

Spend time with your dog on a daily basis stroking and gently grooming them, looking for any changes in their skin or coat, unusual discharges or swelling from the injury. Check with your veterinarian to see if gentle

massage is OK. This can increase circulation to any wounds and help in the healing process. Monitor their weight and notify your veterinarian immediately if your dog experiences any vomiting or diarrhoea. Make sure that you strictly follow the guidelines provided by your veterinarian when giving any medication to your dog, including completing the prescription entirely.

Dressings

Bandages, splints, casts or other dressings may be required to help stabilise a healing fracture or surgical procedure and protect the wound from infection. Dressings can also provide protection from your dog's natural tendency to lick a wound. If your dog continually licks at or attempts to remove the dressing, distract them with a toy or treat, or consider a taste deterrent such as Bitter Apple or Crib Stop.

Getting back to normal

Once you receive the go-ahead from your veterinarian, it is time to give your dog the confidence that they can return to their normal routine. Be patient during this process, which can take up to two weeks.

Walking is a great way for you and your dog to reconnect. Twice daily outings, perhaps to their favourite place, will have them feeling better in no time.

