



POST OPERATIVE CARE

Instructions for Joint Arthroscopy

Your dog has had arthroscopic (keyhole) surgery to examine inside of his/her joint. This allows us to see damage inside the joint in high definition and under magnification. In some cases, surgical treatment may have been performed at the time as the diagnostic arthroscopy. Treatment of severe joint problems will not be possible at the same time and a plan for your pet's future treatment will have been discussed at the time of discharge.

Arthroscopy is a minimally invasive surgery; therefore, your pet should have minimal post operative pain and complications post surgery are rare and usually minor. Having said that, any interventions that have been performed inside the joint will need time to heal. We would normally recommend 7-10 days of rest immediately after the procedure followed by 6- 8 weeks of gradually increasing lead exercise (start with 10-15mins twice daily and build by 5 mins per walk per week). Hydrotherapy (if desired) can usually be started 4 weeks post surgery.

The sutures will need to be removed from the small wounds around 10-14 days post surgery, a follow up appointment with Tom will usually be scheduled for 8 weeks post surgery.

The main complication post arthroscopy is minor swelling at the wounds, this usually resolved within 48-72 hours and is nothing to worry about.

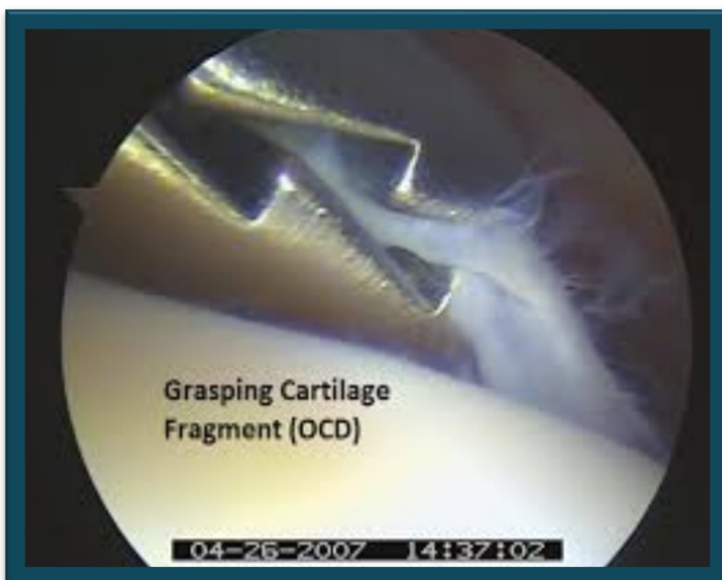


Image taken from an arthroscopic procedure with cartilage flap removal.

The most common reason for arthroscopic examination is in dealing with Fragmentation of the Coronoid Process (FCP). This is a common cause of forelimb lameness in medium-large breed dogs. Arthroscopic fragment removal is often sufficient to resolve lameness in the short to medium term. Long term, osteoarthritis will develop in the joint which may require further treatment.