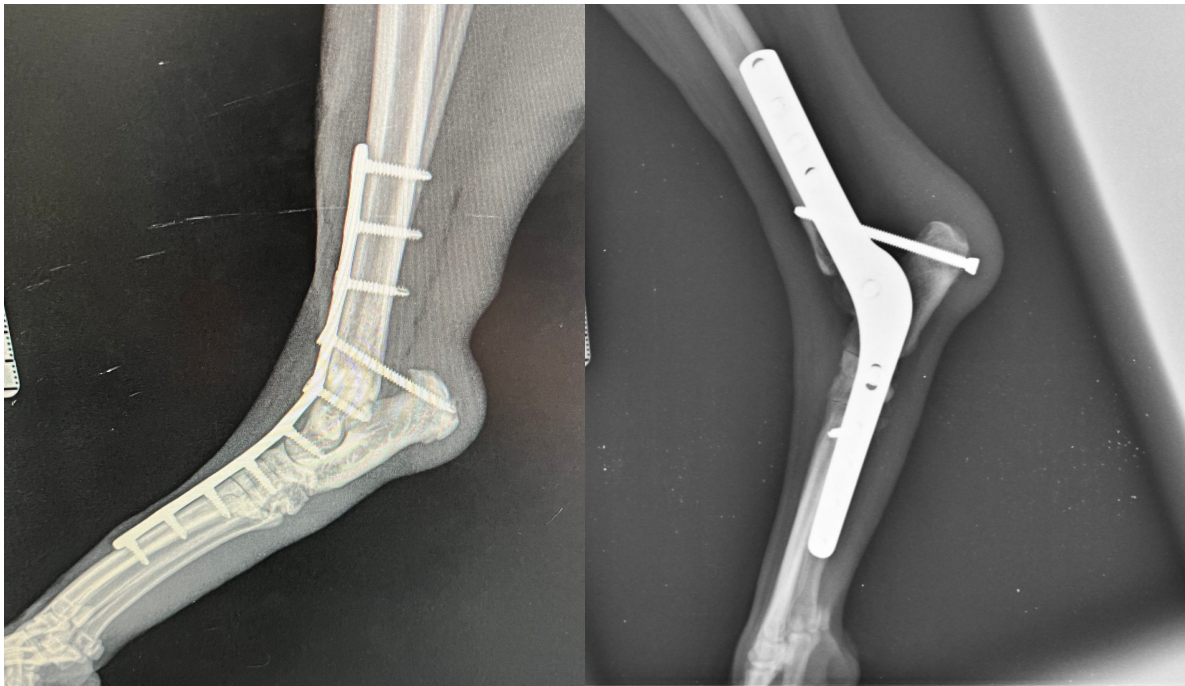


Arthrodesis

An Arthrodesis is a salvage procedure used to fuse a joint which cannot be managed in any alternative fashion.

Common reasons to pursue arthrodesis include:

- Severe instability
- Multiple ligament damage
- Non-repairable fracture
- Chronic painful joint
- Osteochondrosis lesions



Procedure:

The cartilage in the joints affected is removed and the space packed with a bone graft. The joint is placed in a functional weight bearing angle and kept in this place with a metal plate and screws. In some instances, a bandage or splint is also used.

Post-Operative Care:

- Wound Care

Your pet will have a wound with skin sutures. Please check this area twice daily, there should not be any pain, swelling, redness or discharge from the wound. A buster collar should be used to prevent interference for at least the first 10-14 days after surgery.



- Exercise Plan

During the first 8 weeks, strict rest is vital to reduce the risk of complications. During this time, your pet should be confined to a crate or pen. Cats should be provided with a shallow litter tray to toilet. Dogs should only be allowed out to toilet via short walks on the lead and only in the garden. Running, jumping and use of stairs are strictly NOT permitted

Dog exercise plan:

Week Number	On lead exercise	Number of times daily	Off lead exercise
1-8	For toileting only	As needed	None
9	5-10 minutes	Up to 3 times daily	None
10	10-15 minutes	Up to 3 times daily	None
11	15-20 minutes	Up to 3 times daily	None
12	20-25 minutes	Up to 3 times daily	None
13	25-30 minutes	Up to 3 times daily	None
14	30 minutes or more	Up to 3 times daily	Start to re-introduce off lead exercise.

Cat exercise plan:

Week number	
1-8	Strict cage rest
9-10	Allow access to a small room in the house
11-12	Allow access around the house, no outside exercise
12-14	Normally at this point, outdoor exercise can be re-introduced

Outcome

Most patients return to normal exercise. A mechanical lameness is common post surgery and comfort is usually good.

Risks and Complications

All surgeries have potential complications. Up to 20% of patients develop a surgical site infection or wound problem, and may require removal of implants. Major complications occur rarely.

