

An Owner's Guide

A Pet Owner's Guide to
Fracture Repair

A close-up, low-angle shot of a brown and white dog, possibly a Border Collie, running towards the camera on a grassy field covered with fallen brown leaves. The dog has a white chest and muzzle, with brown patches around its eyes and on its ears. It is wearing a colorful plaid leash. In the background, a person's legs and feet are visible, and a green object is blurred.

Arthrex®
Vet Systems

The Arthrex Difference

Arthrex Vet Systems brings decades of orthopedic innovation directly to veterinary medicine, driven by our mission of Helping Veterinarians Treat Their Patients Better™. We support veterinarians with advanced, reliable tools and techniques so they can provide safe, effective care for your pet.

Our implants, instruments, and techniques are designed specifically for animal anatomy. This pet-focused approach helps veterinarians to achieve secure fixation, restore joint stability, and support healthy, long-term healing.

Arthrex Vet Systems continually develops new technologies that give veterinary surgeons greater precision and clarity in the operating room, supported by refined instrumentation designed for consistent, dependable results. We're committed to supporting the long term health and mobility of pets everywhere, helping them return to the activities they love as quickly and safely as possible.



What Is a Bone Fracture?

Fractures can be simple, involving two pieces, or complex, with the bone breaking into multiple fragments. Because bones provide the structural support necessary for movement and weight-bearing, all fractures require medical care. Many are best treated with surgery to ensure proper healing and support a full return to function.



How Are Fractures Diagnosed?

If a fracture is suspected, your veterinarian will typically perform the following steps to evaluate the injury and guide treatment:

- › Perform a physical examination
- › Assess your pet's comfort level and ability to use the limb
- › Take x-rays to determine the fracture's location and type





How Does Fracture Surgery Work?

Many fractures benefit from surgery to stabilize the bone. This is often done using internal implants, such as plates and screws, that are placed directly on the bone during the procedure.

The goals of fracture repair are to:

- › Hold the bone in proper alignment
- › Provide stability while healing occurs
- › Support your pet as they gradually regain function

Every fracture is unique, and your veterinarian will choose the surgical method best suited to your pet's injury.

How Are Plates and Screws Used to Repair Fractures?

Veterinarians may choose from a variety of plating systems to repair fractures. In these procedures, a plate is positioned on the bone, and screws are placed to hold the bone in the correct position while it heals.

One plating system your veterinarian may use is the OrthoLine™ fracture management system, which includes a variety of plates and screws designed to fit pets of different sizes. This range allows your veterinarian to select implants that best match your pet's anatomy and specific injury. Based on the type of fracture, your pet's size, and overall health, your veterinarian will determine which system and tools are most appropriate.

What This Means for You as a Pet Owner

While fracture repair uses specialized implants, you are not expected to choose or fully understand the specific hardware involved.

Your veterinarian's role is to:

- › Recommend the appropriate surgical approach
- › Select implants suited to your pet's individual fracture
- › Perform the procedure and oversee recovery

Your role is to:

- › Understand why fracture stabilization is recommended
- › Follow postoperative instructions carefully
- › Communicate any concerns or changes in your pet's behavior during recovery to your veterinarian

Postoperative Care

A successful recovery depends on following your veterinarian's postoperative care instructions. These plans vary but commonly include:

- › Restricting activity for a set period
- › Taking short, controlled leash walks only if permitted
- › Administering medications and caring for the incision as directed
- › Attending follow-up visits with x-rays to monitor healing
- › Gradually returning to activity under veterinary guidance

Contact your veterinary team immediately if you notice increased pain, swelling, redness, or drainage at the incision or fracture site, decreased appetite, or changes in how your pet uses the limb.

Contact Information

US Arthrex Customer Service

1370 Creekside Boulevard
Naples, Florida 34108
Tel: 888-215-3740

Arthrex Canada

Tribe Medical Group, Inc.
580 Sovereign Road
London, Ontario, Canada N5V 4K7
Tel: 519-680-0707

EMEA Sales Office

Europaallee 33a
50226 Frechen, Germany
Tel: +49 2234 92850

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US patent information