



Amputation Concerns to Discuss with Clients

Before Surgery:

- Will they have another person to help?
- Review possible recovery challenges and delays.
- Share how to create a safe home environment for recovery.
- If interested, client should know about prosthetic options **before** surgery.

On Discharge Day:

Pain medications:

- What is prescribed, why, and what are the possible side effects?
- Explain dosage, duration, and any necessary tapering.

Pain signals:

- How to know if the pet is not getting enough pain control.
- What do common pain signals look like?
- What to do if the pet refuses to eat or becomes constipated.
- How long to wait if the pet doesn't urinate?

Phantom Pain:

- Explain phantom limb pain symptoms.
- Describe what can be done to treat them.

Incision appearance

- Describe the incision and show examples.
- Suggest covering wound with [recovery suit](#), t-shirt, or boxer shorts in addition to using the cone.
- Explain seromas and at-home treatment.
- Discuss what normal (and abnormal) bruising and swelling looks like.

The New Normal

- Explain activities pet should **not** do while they recover.
- Suggest ideas to keep pets calm and engaged during recovery?
- Discuss how far the pet should be walking prior to stitches being removed.
- Describe how to increase physical activity and when.
- Stress the importance of weight management.

Rehabilitation Therapy

- All pets benefit from rehab therapy.
- Suggest a rehab therapy evaluation to learn about keeping their Tripawd injury-free.
- Tripawds can pay for first rehab visit. Refer clients to tripawds.org/rehab.

NOTES



Remember, the Tripawds Foundation can pay for the first rehab visit.

tripawds.org



Refer clients to Tripawds for resources, emotional support, and credible advice.

tripawds.com