Your pet has undergone a femoral head and neck osteotomy (FHO). The surgery removes the head of the femur in an attempt to alleviate pain from severe hip dysplasia/arthritis. It is a major surgical procedure.

ACTIVITY: Having your pet use the operated leg early on is the key to successful recovery from this operation. Until the sutures are removed, your pet should be leash walked 3-4 times per day for about 10 minutes. You may also be asked to perform passive range of motion exercises for 10-15 minutes 3-4 times per day. Both of these activities help to build up the fibrous tissue that will be necessary to support your pet’s weight on the operated limb.

Following suture removal, your pet should be encouraged to use the limb as much as possible. If your pet does not want to place weight on the limb, they should be walked slowly or walked up/down hills and stairs. We can also show you how to do weight-shifting exercises. If using the limb, unlimited activity including running and playing are allowed. Swimming is one of the best exercises for recovery from this operation. If a swimming pool is not available, supervised swimming in a bathtub or jacuzzi can be done. All this activity will help strengthen the muscles and maintain range of motion.

E-COLLAR: Please prevent injury to the incision by keeping the Elizabethan collar on at all times until the sutures/staples are removed.

INCISION: Please evaluate the incision daily for signs of infection including progressive redness, swelling, oozing, heat, pain and/or separation of the skin edges.

SKIN STAPLES/SUTURES: Evaluation for staple/suture removal in 10-14 days.

MEDICATIONS: Please follow all instructions provided.

1. Pain Management - Your pet will likely be provided with a Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory/Analgesic Drug (NSAID) such as Rimadyl (carprofen), Deramaxx (deracoxib), Previcox (firocoxib) or Metacam (meloxicam).

Your pet may also be provided with either a fentanyl patch and/or Tramadol (Ultram) for pain management. Carefully follow the instructions listed on the bottle detailing proper dosage and frequency of administration. If a fentanyl patch is placed, it will need to be removed in 3-5 days. Fentanyl can cause strong respiratory depression in humans so keep away from small children and dispose of it properly.

2. Antibiotics – Your pet received intravenous antibiotics throughout the surgical procedure and usually will not require extended therapy at home.

RECHECK EXAMINATIONS:
1. Suture removal in 10-14 days.
2. Recheck examination and Xrays in 6 weeks.