



Femoral Head and Neck Excision Arthroplasty.

Excision arthroplasty is a salvage procedure for animals with intractable pain associated with hip dysplasia, unreducible dislocations or fractures of the femoral head. It can be performed on one or both hind limbs. A false joint forms between the pelvis and the femur. The limb will be shorter after surgery.

Results of this surgery are relatively good in small breed dogs and cats, however in large breeds, results are not particularly satisfactory. Surgery is most successful in younger dogs and in dogs with minimal soft tissue scarring and fibrosis around the joint. Dogs with extensive arthritis and associated wasting of the muscles of the hind limb often respond poorly to this procedure.

There is no doubt that animals that use the leg relatively soon after surgery and those that have rigorous physiotherapy respond the best.

- 🐾 Owners should try to begin passive range-of-motion exercises, extending and flexing the hip 40-50 times at least four times daily as soon as possible after surgery.
- 🐾 The animal should have two thirty minute walks on a leash daily.
- 🐾 Any swimming should be encouraged.
- 🐾 The animal will benefit from analgesics such as Carprofen.
- 🐾 If your animal has not begun to use the leg within the first few days after surgery, please phone for advice.
- 🐾 Sutures should be removed ten days after surgery.
- 🐾 Please call at any stage if you think there may be a problem.