

CLIENT INFORMATION SHEET

Angular Limb Deformities

What will be the timeline of my foal's visit?

Most foals will be assessed on the day of arrival, have surgery the following day and be ready to go home within one or two days of surgery, depending on the procedure performed. Some foals will stay for farriery (usually on a Thursday) if required

What do I need to do to prepare my foal for his/her visit to the Hospital?

The better handled a foal is, the easier assessment and care of a foal will be. If your foal is presenting with an in-foal mare, please ensure, as far as possible, that any planned veterinary evaluations of the mare are performed prior to attending the hospital. If this is not possible, please contact us to discuss what is required while hospitalised.

Which diagnostic tests will be performed on my foal during the visit?

A clinical examination and x-ray is usually all that is required but if there are other clinical concerns, we will discuss this with you prior to investigating further.

What treatment/surgery/ intervention will my foal have during their stay?

Angular limb deformities are usually corrected by the placement of a single screw under radiographic guidance and general anaesthesia. Alternative procedures include removing a small portion of periosteum (outer covering of the bone), placing two screws and a wire, or utilisation of bone plates. Your surgeon will discuss the best options for your horse prior to performing surgery.

**When will I get my foal's reports?**

X-rays will be reported to you the same day, or in some cases, the following day. Your veterinarian will receive a written report within 4 days of discharge from the hospital. A summary of your foal's visit, as well as recommendations for care at home, will be given to you at the time of discharge from the hospital.

Is there anything I need to prepare at home before my horse leaves the Hospital?

Your foal will need to be on box rest for 2 weeks so a clean dry stable will be required. For some procedures, an alternative period of box rest is required; we will inform you if this is the case.



After my foal comes home what veterinary care will be required?



A dressing will be in place for 2 weeks. This will require changing in a sterile manner every 2 days. The sutures will be removed 14 days post-operatively and an additional dressing will be placed to cover the leg for 3 days after suture removal. Then the foal will need to be evaluated very regularly by your vet to monitor the correction (this will be at least once per week). As the leg becomes straighter you will need to bring your foal back to the hospital for the screw to be removed. This is essential and needs to be performed at the right time to prevent over-correction. The surgical team are more than happy to assist you and your vet with monitoring the correction of the limb angle via videos.

After my foal comes home, how can I best care for my horse?

Keep your foal on box rest. It is important that the dressings are kept clean and dry. Regular veterinary checks (at least weekly) are essential to make sure the limb is correcting appropriately.

Will my foal require medications when they come home?

Some foals will have no medications prescribed, others may have anti-inflammatories, depending on the surgery performed.

As with all medications, if your foal becomes depressed, has a reduced appetite, or has a change in the consistency or quantity of faeces, discontinue the medication and contact your vet urgently.

Will my foal require a special diet when they come home?

Your foal can return to their usual diet.

