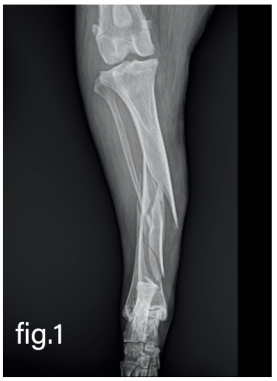
Fracture Repair Surgery for Your Pet: What You Need to Know

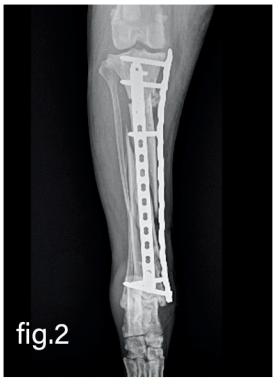
Understanding Fractures

Broken bones (fractures) in dogs and cats usually result from trauma, but also occur due to underlying disease. Fractures can range from simple to complex. Simple fractures have the highest complication rate if not properly stabilized. Non-union fractures are most commonly associated with fractures treated with a splint or cast. Complex fractures always require surgical intervention to properly realign and stabilize the bone for healing.

Signs of a possible fracture

- Limping or not bearing weight on a limb
- Swelling or bruising
- Pain when touched
- Visible deformity or abnormal limb position





Fracture Repair of Radius & Ulna

Figure 1: Complex Radius & Ulna fracture.

Figure 2: Radius and Ulna fractures are stabilized with bone plates and screws using a minimally-invasive technique.

How Fractures are Repaired

The goal of fracture repair surgery is to realign the joints and keep the bone stable until healing is complete. Methods of treatment include:

External Coaptation (Casts/Splints)

- Nonsurgical
- Used for select, simple fractures (especially below the elbow or knee).
- Requires careful monitoring to avoid complications like pressure sores.

Internal Fixation

- Uses bone plates, screws, pins, or rods placed entirely inside the body.
- Provides strong, stable support and often allows faster recovery.
- Ideal for most fractures.

External Fixation

- A frame outside the body holds the bone in place with pins that pass through the skin into the bone.
- Often used for open fractures, comminuted fractures, or cases with significant soft tissue injury.

Minimally Invasive Techniques (MIPO)

- Advanced plating through smaller incisions, usually without exposing the fracture.
- Reduces tissue damage, speeds healing, and minimizes post-surgical pain.
- This is the most common technique used for fracture repair at H-Town.
- Our surgeons have pioneered minimally-invasive fracture repair and joint surgery and teach our techniques around the world.

Continued: **Finding an Experienced Surgeon**

Entrust your pet's care in experienced hands—Consider a Board Certified Veterinary Surgeon

Why Choose H-Town Veterinary Specialists?

For complex procedures such as **Fracture Repair Surgery**, your pet's highest chance of a successful recovery is with a Veterinary Specialist-- specifically, a Board Certified Veterinary Surgeon. For a Veterinarian to specialize, the Board Certification process requires a minimum of 4 additional years of rigorous surgical training, repetition, and testing, through thousands of cases under the supervision of experienced Specialists. Our team of Board Certified Veterinary Surgeons has over 80,000 hours of combined experience in specialized surgical care. Outside of private practice, we have contributed to a variety of veterinary journals, textbook chapters, & published research, and we actively train future veterinary surgeons to become proficient in a variety of advanced orthopedic procedures.

How we maximize speed of recovery and quality of outcome for our patients:

- We see patients very quickly (often same day), unlike the 3-6 week wait time at other practices.
- All surgeries are planned in specialized software to ensure optimal implant selection.
- We use state of the art equipment and imaging technology.
- We work with a diverse array of fractures and are prepared for even the most difficult cases.

How we give our clients the best experience possible:

- As a practice run by Veterinary Specialists, we are generally more flexible and less expensive than larger multispecialty hospitals.
- Your surgeon will speak with you before & after surgery to answer questions and help you decide the treatment that works best for you and your pet.
- After surgery, our team will walk you through your post-operative care plan to facilitate the best possible recovery for your pet. We also provide a F.A.Q. to help with potential questions that may arise after surgery.

What To Expect After Surgery

Restricted Activity

- Leash walk and strict activity limits for at least 6–8 weeks to protect the healing bone.

Follow-Up Visits

- X-rays are taken after 4-8 weeks to monitor healing and guide when activity can increase.

Rehabilitation

- Guided exercises may be recommended to rebuild strength and flexibility

Week 0-2	Week 3-6	Week 6-8	Week 8-10	Post-10 Weeks
Crate Rest Limit Activity	Gradual Walks Leash Only	Gentle Rehab Range-of-Motion	Longer Walks Light Play	Gradual Return to Normal Activity Closely Monitor

H-TOWN VETERINARY SPECIALISTS

Call for a fast consultation

(M-F 8am-5pm) 832.776.5574

www.htown.vet