



Bone Fracture Treatment Options

The long bones of dogs and cats are almost identical to the bones of the legs and arms of people, and just like people, dogs and cats can break these bones due to trauma. A bone can break in many ways; this is called a fracture. Fractures are classified into several categories: Incomplete, Complete, Transverse, Oblique and Comminuted. The type of fracture will determine the length and cost of surgery and/or treatment. With surgical intervention, fractures have a more successful chance of healing as the instability is eliminated and this allows for the bone to adequately heal.

Surgery does dramatically improve the chances of the fracture healing, and by using plating, pin, and/or wire techniques, most fractures can be stabilized surgically. This depends on a case by case basis however. If there are financial constraints and surgery is not a viable option, external coaptation (splinting / bandaging) can be attempted. However, it must be reiterated that bone healing may not fare as well with external coaptation as it would with surgical repair. Some cases may require limb amputation depending on severity and financial constraints. Below is a range of options for treatment, comparing a surgical fracture repair with and without complications, external coaptation, and/or to limb amputation.

Surgical Options:

1. Fracture repair without complications

Price includes initial exam and x-rays, anesthesia, uncomplicated fracture repair, pain injections, antibiotics, overnight hospitalization, IV fluids, bloodwork, plate & screws for repair, post-operative pain medications, follow up exams and follow up x-rays.

Estimated cost = \$4200 – 4800

2. Fracture repair with complications

Price includes initial exam and x-rays anesthesia, complicated fracture repair, pain injections, antibiotics, overnight hospitalization, IV fluids, bloodwork, plate & screws for repair, post-operative pain medications, follow up exams and follow up x-rays.

Estimated cost = \$4800 – 6000

3. Limb Amputation

Price includes initial exam and x-rays, anesthesia, amputation procedure, pain injections, IV fluids, bloodwork, post-operative pain medications, antibiotics and overnight hospitalization

Estimated cost = \$2400 - \$3000

***Surgical options are only with qualified veterinarians, based on availability. Surgery may also available with a mobile Boarded Veterinary Surgeon if preferred. Average cost with Boarded Surgeon is \$2000-\$3000 additional to costs listed above. Would need a consultation with boarding surgeon for more accurate costs, based on case by case basis.*

Non-Surgical Options (Splinting & Bandaging):

Includes initial exam and x-rays, pain medications, sedatives (if necessary), follow up splint and bandage changes, follow up exams and follow up x-rays.

External Splint & Bandage (small animal): \$1500 – 2000

External Splint & Bandage (medium animal): \$2000 - 2800

External Splint & Bandage (large animal): \$2800 – 3500

***These cost ranges are based on an average healing time of 6-8 weeks. Some cases may require longer treatment and may exceed the above estimated ranges.*