

FORBES Veterinary Clinic

FRACTURES IN CATS

Understanding, Treating & Supporting Recovery

Fractures (broken bones) can be painful and serious, but with early diagnosis and appropriate treatment, most cats can make a full recovery.

Prompt veterinary care helps relieve pain, prevents complications and gives your cat the best chance of healing well.

EVEN INDEPENDENT
CATS CAN SUFFER
SERIOUS INJURIES.
EARLY TREATMENT
MAKES A BIG
DIFFERENCE.



? WHAT IS A FRACTURE?

A fracture is a break in a bone. It can be partial or complete.

Fractures can occur after trauma such as road accidents, falls, fights, or even from high jumps.

Some breaks may be obvious, others are harder to detect.



💡 DID YOU KNOW?

- Cats are experts at hiding pain, so injuries may not be obvious.
- Leg fractures are most common, but any bone can break.
- Prompt treatment improves comfort and prevents complications.
- Indoor cats can still fracture bones from falls or accidents.

COMMON CAUSES OF FRACTURES



Road traffic accidents



Falls from heights



Cat fights



High impact jumps or landings



Getting trapped or hit by objects

1 SIGNS OF A FRACTURE

Look for:

- Limping or not putting weight on a leg
- Swelling or bruising
- Pain when touched
- Obvious deformity
- Holding the leg in an unusual position
- Reluctance to move or jump
- Hiding or being quiet



! If your cat shows any of these signs after an injury, seek veterinary care as soon as possible.

2 HOW IS IT DIAGNOSED?

Your veterinarian will:

- Perform a physical examination
- Assess your cat's pain and injury
- Take X-rays to confirm the fracture and determine the type and location
- Check for other injuries
- Plan the best treatment for your cat



X-rays are essential to understand the fracture and plan the right treatment.

3 TREATMENT OPTIONS

Treatment depends on the type and location of the fracture.

- Rest and confinement (minor, stable fractures)
- Bandaging or splinting (simple fractures)
- Surgical repair (pins, plates or rods) for more complex fractures
- Pain relief and anti-inflammatory medications
- Care of any other injuries



Your veterinarian will recommend the best option for your cat's needs.

4 HOME CARE & RECOVERY

Your cat's care at home is vital for a successful recovery.

- Keep your cat indoors and confined
- Follow all medication instructions
- Prevent jumping and climbing
- Monitor the bandage or surgical site
- Attend all recheck appointments
- Provide a quiet, comfortable space



Most cats need several weeks of rest for bones to heal properly.

5 COMPLICATIONS TO WATCH FOR

Contact your veterinarian if you notice:

- Increased pain or swelling
- Lameness that worsens
- Discharge or bad odour from surgical sites
- Bandage slipping, wet or damaged
- Loss of appetite or lethargy
- Any other concerns



Early intervention can prevent serious problems.

6 PREVENTION TIPS

You can help reduce the risk of fractures by:

- Keeping your cat indoors
- Installing secure windows and screens
- Using cat-friendly enclosures or catios
- Supervising outdoor time
- Keeping hazardous areas safe and accessible

A safe environment helps keep curious cats out of danger.



TYPES OF FRACTURES

Some common types include:



Transverse (straight break)



Oblique (angled break)



Spiral (twisting break)



Comminuted (bone in pieces)

AFTER SURGERY CARE

If your cat has surgery, follow these key points:

- Use an E-collar to prevent licking or chewing
- Keep the area clean and dry
- Give medications as prescribed
- Keep recheck appointments
- Report any concerns promptly

Good aftercare is essential for a smooth recovery.



QUICK TIPS



Indoor living is safest



Know where your cat can hide and get stuck



Regular vet check-ups help keep cats healthy



Have an emergency vet contact saved



EVERY CAT COUNTS

Fractures can be painful, but with the right care and support, most cats recover very well.

If you notice any signs of an injury, contact your veterinarian straight away.

