

## What Is A Femoral Head Ostectomy?

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Grayson is a 1.5 year old male neutered domestic shorthair cat. He presented to our practice for lameness. His owners did not know of any recent trauma, but Grayson was limping and didn't want to eat or play. On exam, he was very tense, painful and had left hind limb lameness. His radiographs revealed a capital physical fracture, or fracture of the femoral head.



Our office called a board certified orthopedic surgeon in for a consult. He confirmed the diagnosis and recommended surgical correction. He explained that this problem has been seen in young neutered male cats after minimal trauma such as a low fall. Grayson returned to our facility the following morning for a surgical procedure called FHO, or femoral head ostectomy. He did very well with anesthesia and was sent home later that evening.

A femoral head ostectomy involves removing the head and neck from the femur to alleviate pain. The pain from these conditions is eliminated with FHO procedure, as it eliminates the bony contact between the pelvis and femur. The muscles hold the hip in place after the procedure. A pseudoarthrosis then develops, which is fibrous tissue between the bones.

Post-operative radiographs from a cat following FHO surgery



Grayson's recovery involved 2 weeks of strict rest, during which the owners performed range of motion exercises to prevent fibrosis, or scar tissue from developing. Most cats with this type of fracture do very well long term after surgical correction. After 2 weeks, Grayson looked great! His sutures were removed and he was allowed to return to normal activity.