

"Sonny" -



Sonny

"Sonny" O Connor, a 9 month old kitten, was referred to me from another veterinary practice. These circumstances usually mean that the patient is in trouble and generally reflects a serious orthopaedic injury.

I think that anyone viewing his radiographs will appreciate that "Sonny" had clearly come off worst with his confrontation with a car!



Before

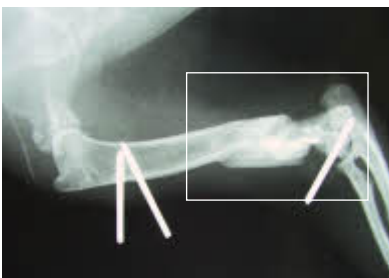
There was a time when the surgical fashion of the day was to attempt to "secure" all the bone fragments together with various different types of stainless steel implants in an effort to repair the damaged leg. This type of surgery is fraught with difficulties given the size of the fragments involved and the potential damage caused to the soft tissue mechanisms which ultimately repair the broken bones.

Instead a technique originally pioneered by a Russian doctor (Ilizarov) aimed simply to harness the body's own powers of healing with the minimum of interference. This involves placing stainless steel pins on either side of the injury which are then connected on the outside of the leg with a steel rod (fixator). This surgical procedure then allows the patient to carry on the process of repair and reconstruction with minimal interference.



Before Close-up

As you can see from the radiograph, only 8 weeks later, "Sonny" has done an excellent job..... although I am happy to take the credit!



After

Over the coming months the bone will continue to remodel until it will become very difficult to identify where the original injury occurred. The capacity of the body to recover spontaneously especially in young cats is a remarkable process. The expertise is often trying to assist that process rather than interfering or assuming that you can do a better job!

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After Close-up

This article is available on the Fairfield Veterinary Centre web site at www.fairfield-vets.co.uk