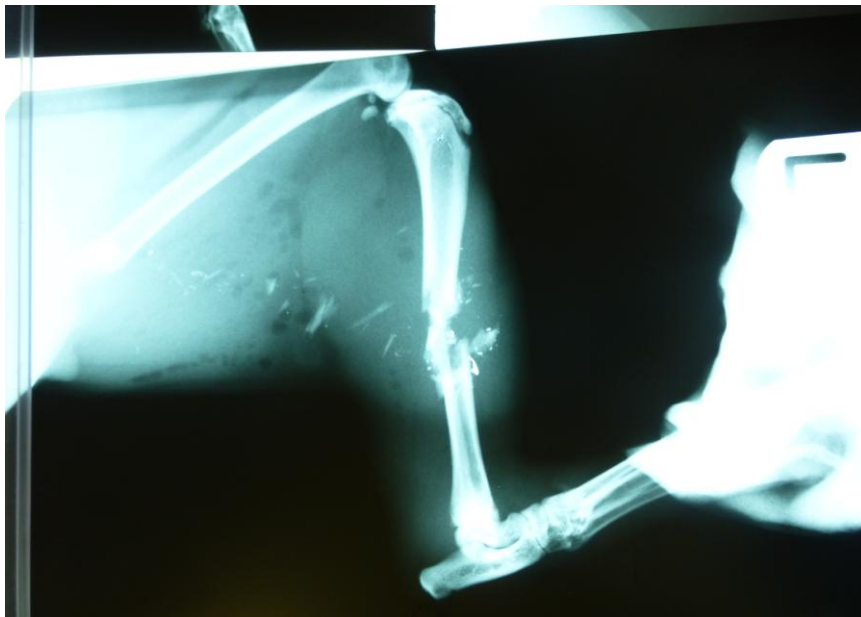


West Lakeland Veterinary group



Fluffy is a 1 year old male domestic short haired cat who was presented to the clinic with an obvious injury to his hind left leg . Initial examination and x-rays of revealed a severely fragmented fracture to the tibia (shin bone) and fibula. It was clear from our findings that the fracture was not an accident as an air gun pellet was found embedded in his thigh muscle.



Radiograph of the fracture with fragments of bone marking the path of the pellet

Due to the complex nature of the fracture it was clear that fixing the bone was going to be far from straight forward.

We opted to stabilise the leg using an external fixation technique. This involved placement of pins above and below the fracture in healthy areas of bone before attaching them to a frame on the outside of the leg . This provides stability to the bone without disturbing the many fragments around the fracture site.



X-ray - Pins placed top and bottom of the leg avoiding the fracture site



Pins attached to a frame using fast setting putty

Fluffy had to wear the frame for 8-10 weeks to allow time for the fracture to heal .



X-ray 8 weeks post operation showing good healing

Fluffy tolerated his frame well even venturing outside on occasion. It was removed after 8 weeks and a gradual return to full mobility was achieved after 10. He is back enjoying himself in the great outdoors and is thankfully keeping out of mischief.