

Bandage and Cast Care

Your pet has just had a procedure where a bandage or cast was applied. It is very important that you follow the instructions below.

Keep the bandage or cast clean and dry. When your pet goes outdoors, a temporary waterproof covering can be applied to the bandage or cast to keep it dry. The covering must be used for short periods only (no more than 60 minutes at a time) and removed immediately upon coming inside. If the covering remains on for longer than 60 minutes, moisture may build up inside the covering, resulting in a damp bandage, cast. Monitor the odor of the cast or bandage carefully, foul odors can indicate infection.

Prevent your pet from biting or chewing at the bandage or cast. If your dog continues to bother the bandage or cast, it may be necessary to use an Elizabethan collar to prevent access to it. Also be aware that a persistent urge to bite or lick at the bandage or cast can indicate a pressure point or other problem within the bandage or cast.

Monitor the position of the bandage or cast closely. Small changes in position of some bandages and casts can create pressure points and sores or cause impaired circulation.

For bandages and casts on the extremities, special monitoring is required. Check the toes daily - they should be warm to the touch and not swollen. Swollen or cold toes often indicate that the bandage or cast is interfering with circulation to the foot.

Keep exercise to a minimum and avoid slippery floors or stairs.

Reasons to have your pet rechecked immediately.

The bandage or cast becomes wet or soiled

A bad odor is coming from the bandage or cast

Your pet is biting or chewing at the bandage or cast

The toes are cool or cold to touch

Any change in position or shape of the bandage or cast on the limb

Any sign of excessive discomfort or stops weight bearing on the limb

Swelling of the toes, or leg above the bandage or cast

Inappetance, depression, change of behaviour or fever in your pet

Finally: Be sure to keep your follow-up appointments which allows the Veterinarian to monitor the condition of your pet's bandage or cast and the progression of healing. If you do not have a follow-up appointment please contact the Veterinary clinic to arrange an appointment.

Para Hills Veterinary Clinic - 8258 4838