



Swedesboro Animal Hospital

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Bandage, Splint, and Cast Care Instructions for Pet Owners

It is of extreme importance that your pet's cast, splint, or bandage is well cared for at all times by you, the pet owner. While this cast, splint, or bandage is in place, a veterinarian should evaluate it in _____ days / weeks.

As the pet owner you play a key role in this management process because you are in the position to monitor and observe your pet on a regular basis. Under certain conditions (i.e. getting wet, slippage from its original position, etc.) the splint, cast, or bandage may *not* perform its function properly. This may result in severe damage to your pet, possibly causing tissue death. Daily examination is critical. You are encouraged to look for swelling of the tissue above and below the cast, splint, or bandage. If there is a slight swelling of your pet's leg, you should pinch the toes through the splint to ensure that there is a good sensation and that the toes have not become swollen and spread apart. You should watch for odor or chewing of the area that can signify infection and discomfort.

Keep the cast, splint, or bandage dry at all times. When your pet must go outside during wet weather, a plastic bag can be used to keep it dry. Remove the plastic bag when your pet returns indoors.

The hospital should be contacted immediately if any of the following events occur:

- Any change in position or shape of the cast, splint, or bandage
- Any excessive chewing of the cast, splint, or bandage by your pet
- Any sign of excessive discomfort
- Any unusual or bad odors emanating from the cast, splint, or bandage
- Any unexplained soiling of the cast, splint, or bandage that was not originally present
- Any sores that develop in relation to the presence of the cast, splint, or bandage
- Swelling of your pet's toes or of the leg above the cast, splint, or bandage
- Lack of appetite, depression, or fever in your pet

Be sure to make and keep an appointment to have the cast, splint, or bandage examined as recommended by your veterinarian.

No cast, splint, or bandage can be worn in complete comfort by your pet and minor licking and chewing are to be expected. A few pets will persist in mutilating even the most carefully made and fitted casts, splints, or bandages. If there is even a suggestion of trouble it is best to prevent damage to the cast, splint, or bandage by utilizing an Elizabethan collar or applying a chew deterrent spray. Please contact the office if you have any questions or require any assistance with the care of your pet's cast, splint, or bandage.