

Home Bandage Care

Your pet has had a bandage placed to cover a wound for protection and/or comfort. We realize wearing a bandage can be awkward for your pet but it should NOT be painful. Initially your pet may appear to limp on the bandaged limb, but this is usually due to the funny feeling of having something on the paw and not due to pain.

It is imperative your pet does not lick or chew the bandage, and that it stay clean and dry. Therefore we strongly recommend the use of an Elizabethan collar, and covering the bandage with the bag provided or another plastic bag any time they go outside. Keep in mind the grass can be wet first thing in the morning. Please remember to take the plastic bag off the bandage when inside so as to allow the area to “breathe”.

If the bandage is destroyed or made wet by chewing or licking, or gets wet or dirty going outside we should see your pet back ASAP to change the bandage. Please do not replace the bandage at home as this can lead to paw swelling or skin irritation if done incorrectly. If the bandage is allowed to get wet or soiled it is very likely the underlying wound or healthy skin will become macerated and infected.

If your pet’s toes have been left uncovered please monitor them daily for swelling, indicated by separation of the nails. If you see the nails separate we should see your pet ASAP to change the bandage.

Activity restriction is also very important to help facilitate wound/injury repair. If your pet’s bandage has a splint incorporated for something like a broken toe, activity restriction is especially important to prevent the splint from cracking and needing to be replaced. Overdoing it with activity will also significantly prolong healing of a fracture.

Please do not hesitate to call the hospital with any questions. We would rather check or change the bandage too soon if there is any question.