



# GENERAL BANDAGE CARE

Your pet has a bandage. The bandage is very important for the healing process. The amount of time the bandage must remain on will vary. This information should be detailed on your pet's discharges. If not, please ask for any specific details concerning the bandage. There are, however, general principles for care of all bandages. Please follow these steps:

- Check the toes (if visible and if the bandage is over a leg) **daily for swelling**. This is particularly important 24 to 48 hours after the splint is applied. If the splint is too constricting, circulation will be impaired and the toes will be swollen. If this occurs please contact us as soon as possible.
- Examine the bandage **daily for signs of irritation and/or infection**. Check the top and bottom of the bandage. The skin may appear reddened and your pet may be licking or chewing at this area. There may also be areas of irritation under the bandage which are not visible. Your pet may lick and chew at the splint over these areas as well. In addition, you may notice a foul odor or discharge coming from the splint. If any of these problems occur, please contact us immediately. These are signs of a possible infection. Infection under the bandage can lead to deformity and loss of function.
- Keep the bandage **clean and dry**. Cover it with a plastic bag to protect against outdoor moisture and urine when going on short trips outside. Remove the bag upon returning indoors. If the bandage becomes wet, a moist irritating dermatitis may result and the bandage will have to be changed.
- **Check the bandage for slippage or looseness**; please call us if you detect any. We will probably want to check the bandage and possibly re-apply it. As a rule you should have us check the bandage at least once every week to two weeks, unless specified more frequently in your discharges.
- Limit your pet's activity to **supervised exercise on a leash only** while he/she has the bandage on. Protection against movement is important for healing. Please enforce rest until complete healing has occurred. We realize this is difficult, but it is the most important part of the healing process.