

Bandage Care

- The bandage should be kept clean and dry.
- Cats should be kept indoors in a small room with a litter tray - this should be frequently cleaned out and refilled with fresh litter to avoid the bandage becoming soiled.
- When walking dogs outside it is advisable to temporarily cover a foot bandage with a boot, drip bag or plastic bag held on with tape. Never use pins or elastic bands as these can restrict the blood supply to the foot. All of these coverings **MUST BE REMOVED** immediately on the return from the walk to minimise sweating underneath the bandage.
- If the bandage becomes damp, dirty or slips down then arrange for it to be checked by a vet or nurse as soon as possible.
- Monitor your pet closely whilst the bandage is in place, any problems should be reported to us as soon as possible. These include:
 - Signs your pet may be feeling unwell.
 - Signs the bandage may be feeling uncomfortable or painful - for example limping or attempts to chew the dressing.
 - Signs of swelling around the bandage.
 - Discharge or unpleasant smells coming from the bandage.
- Please keep follow up appointments after the bandage has been applied. It is very important to attend these appointments to ensure the bandage is comfortable and has not moved or become too loose or too tight. The area under the bandage may swell or have been swollen when the dressing was first applied and reassessment is vital, ensuring the bandage is comfortable and functioning correctly.
- If your pet persistently licks or chews their bandage this may indicate discomfort, boredom or naughtiness. We can use a bitter tasting spray to deter them, but an Elizabethan collar (aka buster collar or "lampshade") may be more appropriate, especially when unsupervised.

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