

BANDAGE SPLINT AND CAST CARE INSTRUCTIONS

It is of extreme importance that the splint, cast or bandage be well cared for at all times by you, the pet owner. While this splint, cast or bandage is in place, the doctor will evaluate it weekly.

It should be realized that under certain conditions (e.g., getting wet, slippage from its original position, etc.) the splint or cast may not perform its function properly or may even cause severe damage to the animal, such as causing gangrene of the limb. Examine the splint or cast daily. Watch for swelling of the limb above the splint, and pinch the toes through the splint every day to ensure the animal has good sensation in them and that the toes have not become swollen.

Keep the splint or cast dry at all times. When the animal must go outside during wet weather, a plastic bag can be used to keep the splint or cast dry. Remove this when the animal is back inside.

Talcum powder or cornstarch helps to prevent friction sores that may occur where the splint or cast rubs the underside of the animal.

If any of the following events occur, return the animal to the hospital that day:

- Any change in position or shape of the splint or cast in the limb.
- Any excessive chewing of the splint or cast by the animal.
- Any sign of excessive discomfort.
- Any unusual or bad odors from the splint or cast.
- Any unexplained soiling of the splint or cast that was not present before.
- Any pronounced sores that develop at the top of the splint or cast that do not respond to talcum or cornstarch application.
- Swelling of the toes, or of the limb above the cast.
- Inappetence, depression, or fever in your pet.

Be sure to make and keep an appointment to have the splint or cast examined and adjusted.

No splint or cast can be worn in complete comfort by the animal and minor licking and chewing is to be expected. A few animals will persist in the mutilating even the most carefully made and fitted splints or casts. If there is even a suggestion of trouble, it is always best to have the animal examined right away.

Courtesy of Mallinckrodt Veterinary, Inc.