



207 Withells Rd
Avonhead, Christchurch 8042
T 03 358 4407
E info@avonheadvets.co.nz
W www.avonheadvets.co.nz

Bandage Care Handout

It's important to care correctly for your pet's bandage as this will affect the healing process, presentation of infection and prevent of cutting off circulation to your pet's limbs. The bandage will require a little extra care and attention until it's removed.

Do not allow your pet to chew on the bandage. Use the plastic Elizabethan collar or soft collar, ensure the correct size is fitted to your pet. If the Elizabethan collar is too short, they will be able to still chew and/or lick the bandage. Always have the Elizabethan collar on your pet when you are not with them. If you are worried about eating and drinking, whilst they have the Elizabethan collar, you can raise their dishes off the ground.

It's very important to keep the bandage clean and dry. If the bandage becomes wet, the bandaging material can restrict on, cutting off circulation to the limb. Also, a wet bandage creates the perfect environment for bacteria, causing infections in the healing wound. This more a longer recovery period, antibiotics, and more bandage = more cost to you.

If it's damp outside or the surface that your pet must walk upon is damp, put a plastic bag around the bandage either held on with tape or tied loosely to keep it dry, to keep out all moisture. Do not leave this plastic bag on the bandage all the time or moisture will develop in the bandage. The covering must be used for short periods only (no more than 60 minutes at time) and removed immediately upon coming inside.

Cats must remain inside with a litter tray while they have a bandage in place. Exercise will need to be restricted; in most cases this will mean only going outside with a lead on for your dog to go to the toilet. Keep exercise to a minimum and avoid slippery floors or stairs.

If the bandage is damp or foul smelling, have it changed immediately.

If exposed, be sure to check your pet's toes daily for swelling. If they become cool and/or puffy, it is possible that the bandage is impairing the circulation of the limb and will need to be changed. Please call our staff immediately if this occurs.

Reasons to have your pet's bandage rechecked immediately:

- The bandage or cast becomes wet or soiled
- A bad odour is coming from the bandage or cast
- Your pet is biting or chewing at the bandage or cast
- The toes are cool or cold to touch
- Any change in position or shape of the bandage or cast on the limb
- Any sign of excessive discomfort or stops weight bearing on the limb
- Swelling of the toes, or leg above the bandage or cast
- Inappetence, depression, change of behaviour or fever in your pet



If you find that the bandage has been removed, call us immediately, or if after business hours call the Afterhours Veterinary for advice. If you have any questions regarding your pet's bandage, please do not hesitate to contact our office immediately.

Should you have any questions, please give us a call, our staff are always happy to help you.

Should you have any enquiries or further concerns about the care of your pet, please do not hesitate to phone us at (03) 358 4407 to discuss.

Warmest wishes, the team at Avonhead Veterinary Clinic