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Care of Bandages and Splints

Following surgery, your pet will need enforced inactivity for a period of several weeks. Strict exercise restriction means: no running, no jumping, no on and off furniture, no up and down stairs. If you have other animals in the house, or children that play with or come in contact with your injured pet, please keep them separated unless you can fully supervise all interaction. Activity must be limited to very short leash walks for the purpose of your pet going to the bathroom only. Your pet should be kept in an enclosed area such as a small yard, dog run, or a small room in the house preferably with solid footing to prevent slipping.

Your pet's splint or bandage will require a little extra care and attention. Do not allow your pet to chew on the bandage/splint. Use the Elizabethan collar that your pet was sent home with. Keep the splint/bandage **clean and dry**. If it is damp outside or the surface that your pet must walk upon is damp, put a plastic bag around the bandage to keep out all moisture. **Do not leave this plastic bag on the bandage all the time or moisture will develop in the bandage.** If exposed, be sure to check your pet's toes daily for swelling; however, not more than the very tip of the toes should be exposed. If the toes are outside the bandage, please call. If they become cool, puffy, or painful it is possible that the bandage is impairing the circulation of the limb and will need to be changed. Please call our office **immediately** if this occurs. If the toes are not exposed, you should try to wiggle your fingers between the layers of bandage, to gently 'squeeze' your pet's foot/toes. Your pet should acknowledge that they have felt your squeeze. If they are unable to feel your squeeze, it may mean that the bandage is impairing feeling and will need to be removed. Please notify us immediately. The bandage/splint may loosen at the top of the leg. As long as it is still supporting the limb and you can still check your pet's toes (and they are okay) it should be all right. If your pet develops some chafing of the skin at the top of the splint, you may add some padding or baby powder to the affected area. If the bandage/splint is damp or foul smelling, have it changed **immediately**.

With your help at home, your pet will get maximum protection and wear from the bandage/splint. If you have any questions regarding your pet's bandage/splint, please do not hesitate to contact our office immediately. We are available to answer questions 24 hours daily. Our staff is always happy to help you. Thank you for letting us give your pet the extra special type of care he/she deserves.