

CAST AND BANDAGE - HOME CARE NOTES

Casts and Bandage Care

Casts, splints, and bandages are used for many reasons but one of the most important is support of a joint or a fractured bone. Unfortunately, our patients cannot tell us if there is abnormal pressure or pain from a splint so we must be very aware of behavioural patterns that can indicate a problem. Regular splint/cast changes are also required to reduce the chance of complications. Complications can be serious if not identified and dealt with early.

Instructions

1. Watch for abnormal behaviour such as continually worrying the splint/cast. If the animal is chewing at the splint persistently, the splint should be removed and the leg checked.
2. The foot should be checked daily to make sure the toes are not swollen and painful.
3. The splint/cast should be smelt daily to check there is not a putrid odour. This can indicate the presence of rub sores or wounds developing.
4. The patient should be restricted in exercise to minimise movement under the cast or splint. This limits the development of complications. Confinement to a small room or crate is usually required.
5. The cast should be kept dry and clean. If the cast gets slightly wet (for example from a water bowl) it can be dried carefully with a hair dryer. If it is very wet then the cast should be changed.
6. The cast should be changed weekly to start with. If all is going well then the changes can be extended to 10 daily. This will involve sedation for cast removal so do not feed the patient breakfast the day of the cast change.
7. If there are any concerns, it is better to call and check rather than leave the cast unchecked.

**If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the clinic 54455288
www.chancellorparkvetsurgery.com.au**