



# Home Care of Splints, Casts and Bandages

Splints, casts and bandages are designed to protect and/or immobilize injured body parts. A splint or cast actually bears the animal's weight. These devices also prevent self-mutilation due to licking and chewing.

Your pet cannot understand the function of a splint, cast or bandage and therefore may want to get the device off in any manner possible. It may shake, bite, pull and push on the splint in an effort to remove it. Fortunately, most pets accept such appliances eventually.

## **Important Points on Care of Splints, Casts and Bandages**

- ☐ Keep the device dry. If your pet goes outside in wet weather, place a plastic bag over the cast or splint to keep it dry. Do not allow the bag to remain on for long periods of time. As a rule of thumb, remove the bag after 1 hour or less.
- ☐ Inform the doctor of any loosening or loss of the splint, bandage or cast.
- ☐ Discourage the pet from licking and chewing the device. Consult the doctor if the animal persists in these activities.
- ☐ Restrict activity. Please walk your pet with a leash only. Do not allow patient to run or go on long walks. Patients should be confined indoors.
- ☐ Consult the doctor if you see signs of pain or increased swelling.

Your pet's splint, cast or bandage will be removed or changed in \_\_\_\_\_ days/weeks