



# Bandage Care

If your pet is recovering from a condition that requires a bandage, proper home care is imperative.

Complications to healing are more likely to occur in pets that do not receive proper home care.

The bandage needs to have constant checks to make sure that it is serving its purpose efficiently.

Bandages need to be kept dry and clean at all times.

Never allow a wet bandage to stay on for more than 24 hours. If they become wet/damp or soiled a redressing will need to be done.

When your pet is going outdoors a temporary waterproof covering can be applied over the bandage. You can purchase waterproof boots from the practice or use a sealed plastic bag and make your own.

A waterproof covering must only be used for short periods of time (no longer than 60 minutes) as moisture can build up making the bandage damp.

When examining your pet's bandage to need to look out for swelling this could indicate that the bandage has become too tight or slipped. If this has happened it reduces the healing process of the wound. This needs to be checked by your vet so it can be fixed.

If the bandage appears to have slipped, twisted, smell bad or has become damaged, your pet needs to be seen by the vet so that the bandage can be reapplied.

If the bandage has gotten wet or dirty it will need to be changed, so please contact the surgery.

You will need to monitor the skin near the bandage to check for sores, redness or rashes. If any of these appear your pet needs to be seen by the practice.

If you are struggling to stop your pet from chewing the bandage there are measures that we can take to help:

- Buster collars, these prevent your pet from being able to access the bandage
- Inflatable collars, another way of preventing access to the bandage

Ensuring that all bandage maintenance appointments are attended is imperative to helping your pets wounds heal as quickly as possible.

If you are struggling to attend the appointments let someone at the practice know and we will help to arrange them at more suitable times.

Most bandages need to be changed every 3-4 days.