

## Cast and Splint Home Care Instructions

It is very important that the cast / splint be kept clean and *DRY* at all times. Please examine the cast daily watching for signs of swelling above or below the cast / splint. Check the toes twice daily to ensure there is good sensation and that the toes are warm and not swollen. If the cast becomes wet or slips from its original position it may not perform its intended function and may even harm the limb by creating sores or cutting off circulation. The bandage material beneath the cast / splint also needs to remain *DRY* at all times. The number one reason bandages get wet is from patients licking the cast or cast padding. Pets produce large amounts of saliva that can rapidly saturate bandage material or a cast. When going outside during wet weather a plastic bag must be placed over the cast to keep it dry. A bag should *only* be placed over the cast while outside because a bag will result in the accumulation of moisture within the bandage leading to skin irritation and possibly sores and infection.

If any abnormalities are noted please schedule a recheck appointment with our office or your family veterinarian to have the bandage under the cast changed and the cast reapplied the same day the problem is noticed. The cast should be evaluated every 10-14 days by a veterinarian even if everything appears to be going well. If any of the following situations occur, please schedule an appointment with our office or with your family veterinarian the same day the problem is noticed.

- A change in the position of the cast / splint
- Chewing on the cast / splint
- Signs of persistent discomfort
- Any unusual or foul odor coming from the cast
- Any unexplained soiling of the cast (may be coming from the limb)
- Any sores that develop at the top or bottom of the cast
- Swelling of the toes or the portion of the limb above the cast
- The bandage / cast gets wet for any reason

Casts are typically uncomfortable for your pet. A few patients will persist in trying to remove or destroy the cast and will need to be wearing an Elizabethan collar 24/7. If there is any sign of a problem, it is always best to consult with our office or your family veterinarian right away.