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## Bandage care information sheet

- The bandage should be kept clean and dry.
- Cats should be confined indoors. Give them a litter tray to use. Empty it frequently and refill it with fresh litter to avoid any dressings getting wet.
- When walking dogs outside it is advisable to temporarily cover a foot bandage with a plastic bag held on with tape. **NEVER USE STRING, PINS OR ELASTIC BANDS** as these can restrict the blood supply. All plastic coverings **MUST BE REMOVED** immediately on the return from the walk to avoid any unnecessary sweating underneath the bandage.
- If the bandage becomes damp or dirty then phone the surgery for an appointment to check it.
- Look for signs of swelling around the bandage, discharge and unpleasant smells coming from the dressing, and any signs that your pet may be feeling unwell or if the dressing appears uncomfortable. Any problems should be reported to the surgery immediately.
- Please keep follow up appointments after the bandage has been applied. It is very important to attend this appointment to ensure the bandage is comfortable and has not moved or become too loose or too tight. The area under the bandage may swell or have been swollen when the dressing was first applied and reassessment is vital, ensuring the bandage is comfortable and functioning correctly.



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- Pets that persistently lick or chew their bandage may indicate discomfort boredom or naughtiness. We can use a bitter tasting spray to deter them. If they persist worrying at the bandage advise should be sought. We can use an Elizabethan collar (aka buster collar or “lampshade”) to prevent them reaching the bandage. A nurse or vet can fit this and full instructions will be given when it is fitted.

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