



Referral Animal Hospital, P.A.

**DAVID T. CROUCH, DVM**  
DIPLOMATE, AMERICAN COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SURGEONS

### **Care of Bandages and Splints**

Following surgery, your pet will need enforced inactivity for a period of several weeks. If you have other animals in the house, or children that play with or come in contact with your injured pet, please keep them separated unless you can fully supervise all interaction. Activity must be limited to very short leash walks for the purpose of your pet going to the bathroom only. Your pet should be kept in an enclosed area such as an airline carrier, cage, dog run, or a small room in the house.

Your pet's splint or bandage will require a little extra care and attention. Do not allow your pet to chew on the bandage/splint. Use the plastic Elizabethan collar if your pet was sent home with one. Keep the splint/bandage **clean and dry**. If it is damp outside or the surface that your pet must walk upon is damp, put a plastic bag around the bandage to keep out all moisture. **Do not leave this plastic bag on the bandage all the time or moisture will develop in the bandage.** If exposed, be sure to check your pet's toes twice daily for swelling. If the toenails have a wide space between them, the paw may be swollen. If they become cool and/or puffy, it is possible that the bandage is impairing the circulation of the limb and will need to be changed. Please call our office **immediately** if this occurs. The bandage/splint may loosen at the top of the leg. As long as it is still supporting the limb and you can still check your pet's toes (and they are okay) it should be all right. If your pet develops some chafing of the skin at the top of the splint, you may add some padding, corn starch, or baby powder to the affected area. If the bandage/splint is damp or foul smelling, have it changed **immediately**.

With your help at home, your pet will get maximum protection and wear from the bandage/splint. If you have any questions or problems during your pet's rehabilitation, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are available to answer questions during regular office hours as well as evenings and weekends via our voice mail system. Please leave a message and a member of our staff will return your call as soon as possible. Thank you for trusting us with the care of your pet and giving your pet the extra special type of care it deserves.