

Bandage care at home

When?

Sometimes we might place a bandage to protect a surgery site, or cover a wound, or for comfort.

Bandage care: There are a variety of different types of bandages that your pet may be sent home with from the hospital and different types of bandages require different kinds of monitoring.

What to look out for:

Soft Padded Limb Bandages: These bandages are placed on a limb and may include a splint designed to hold the limb in position while pets recover from injury. Bandages can cause pressure sores, wounds, or even compress the blood supply if they are not appropriately positioned. To ensure that your pet's splint bandage is managed appropriately, please monitor the bandage for any slippage (malpositioning/displacement from its original position), soiling or wetting, or discharge/discoloration on the bandage. Additionally, the toes should be closely monitored for any sign of swelling (toes spreading apart) or pain. If your pet shows signs of pain/discomfort or lameness related to the bandage, if any bad smells are noted coming from the bandage, or if any of the above signs are seen, please call Purdue Veterinary Hospital or your veterinarian/a more local emergency clinic to have the bandage rechecked.

Tie Over Bandages: These bandages are placed in areas of the body that are typically challenging to place a traditional bandage. These bandages should be monitored for strikethrough/discharge, dripping, color change, or loosening. These require frequent bandage changes, however if any of the above signs are noted, please contact PU VH prior to your appointment, or the clinic/veterinarian who you have scheduled continued wound care appointments with.

Neck Wraps: These bandages are applied loosely over the neck and are most commonly used to help secure a feeding tube or cover a wound. It is important that these bandages are applied loosely to avoid putting excessive tension around the neck and impairing breathing. If the bandage becomes loose or falls off, please do not replace this bandage at home, because excessive tightness may result in difficulty breathing. If you are worried that the bandage has shift and has become placed too tightly to allow your pet to breathe comfortably, please contact a veterinarian immediately. As with any other bandage, a veterinarian should be notified if the bandage becomes loose, soiled, or develops a foul odor.

Across the Heart Bandages: These are soft, padded bandages that are placed across the shoulders, upper back, and chest and may be used to cover a wound, surgical site, or drain. Similarly, to neck wraps, these bandages are placed loosely to ensure that the chest is not compressed to a point where breathing is impaired. If the bandage becomes loose or falls off, please do not replace this bandage at home, because excessive tension may

result in difficulty breathing. As with any other bandage, a veterinarian should be notified if the bandage becomes loose, soiled, or develops a foul odor.