

Bandage Safety

You or your veterinarian may have applied a bandage to protect your pet's wound or to prevent them from licking or chewing a sensitive area.

Bandages are an excellent tool to encourage healing, but they can cause significant harm if they're not monitored and maintained properly. Here are some quick tips for bandage care and safety.



Bandages should be applied securely, but not too tight.

Tight bandages impair circulation, cause chafing, and create pressure sores. Loose bandages can slip, bunch, or roll, leading to bandage sores, wound exposure, or tightening.

The nature of your pet's wound will determine how often the bandage needs to be changed.

Some bandages need to be replaced twice a day. Ask your veterinarian how often the dressing should be changed. In general, most dry bandages should not be left in place longer than 3 days.

Limit your pet's activity to reduce the chance that the bandage will slip or roll.



When pets go outside, protect the bandage with a plastic cover or protective sleeve.

Do not leave covers on for longer than 20 minutes, as they can trap moisture within the bandage. For the time that your pet has a bandage, they should only be allowed outside on a leash for short periods to relieve themselves.

Use a cone collar to prevent pets from licking or chewing a bandage.

Bandages should be closely inspected at least twice daily for moisture, soiling, odor, or displacement.

Wet, soiled, or stinky bandages should be removed immediately. Bandages should be replaced immediately if the pet shows signs of pain in the affected area.

If a limb is bandaged, the toes of that limb should be checked twice daily to make sure that they're not too warm, too cold, swollen, or painful.

Use the opposite limb as a comparison.

The toenails of the middle two toes of each foot should lie parallel to each other.

When toenails point away from each other at the ends, it is an indication that the bandage is too tight.



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