



# Cayman Animal Hospital

## Bandage Care

If your pet has been less than lucky just lately and has a bandage to show for it, you may want to check our guidelines for safe and effective bandage care.

We advise clients not to apply bandages themselves - except for in emergency situations, in which case we would refer you to our first aid resource page - as without the correct knowledge more harm can occur.

The basic rules of bandage care are:



Do not get bandage wet.

Do not apply further dressing/tape around top of bandage.

Check bandage daily.

Do not exercise your pet off lead.

Check for limb swelling.

Do not allow your pet to chew bandage.

For patients who have had a bandage applied by the practice but would like to know how to look after it effectively and what to do if damage occurs to the bandage please see table below.

| Problem          | What to do                 | How to prevent  | Why  |
|------------------|----------------------------|---|--|
| Bandage gets wet | Seek veterinary assistance | Apply temporary waterproof cover when going outside, ask the practice if they can provide this. However ideally we would prefer you avoid taking your pet outside in or after the rain, and keep away from pools. | A wet bandage will be a breeding ground for bacteria, especially serious if your pet has a wound underneath the dressing. Also skin left wet under a bandage for a prolonged period could lead to sloughing of the skin. |



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| <p>Bandage is slipping.</p>  | <p>Seek veterinary assistance. Do not place any tape around the top of dressing.</p>   | <p>Most pets with a bandage are on strict rest and limited exercise. Sometimes if we relax those rules bandages can slip.</p>  | <p>Applying tape or other dressing around the top of the bandage could act as a tourniquet and affect the blood supply to the rest of the limb.</p>                      |
| <p>Exudate (discharge) and / or blood seeping through the bandage.</p> | <p>Seek veterinary assistance. You can apply a further layer of dressing, but do NOT remove any layers.</p>  | <p>Most pets with a bandage are on strict rest and limited exercise. Sometimes if we relax those rules wounds can take longer to heal.</p>   | <p>Removing layers of bandage could dislodge any clotting formation of the wound.</p>  |
| <p>The patient has chewed through the bandage/or part of.</p>          | <p>Seek veterinary assistance as a new bandage may need to be applied. Obtain a wrist or ankle sports support sock to place over dressing if only part chewed.</p> | <p>Use of Elizabethan collars can stop a patient from reaching the bandage.</p>  | <p>Patient interference will slow the healing process or possibly damage the wound further. Use of a sports sock will help to maintain even pressure on the bandage.</p> |
| <p>Swelling around bandage/ limb</p>                                   | <p>Seek veterinary assistance.</p>   | <p>Bandage may be too tight, a looser dressing may need to be applied. Icing may be beneficial depending on the reason for swelling and type of injury/ dressing (but only under direction from a Veterinary Surgeon).</p> | <p>Latent tissue swelling may occur causing the bandage to become too tight.</p>   |



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| <p>Bandage has come off completely</p> | <p>Seek veterinary assistance. If the bandage was covering an open wound, check to see if any fluid or blood is still seeping from it. Check for any swelling to limb.</p> | <p>The patient should be on strict rest, make sure all the family are following the same rule. Too much activity can cause the bandage to slip.</p> | <p>An assessment of the limb/wound should be made. We will then advise you as to whether another dressing should be applied.</p> |
| <p>Bandage smells / malodours.</p>     | <p>Seek veterinary assistance. Check bandage over to see if it's wet, or any exudates (discharge) has seeped through.</p>  | <p>Check bandage daily. Don't allow bandage to get wet. Follow any cleaning instructions thoroughly and regularly.</p>                              | <p>A smelly bandage can indicate possible infection. Sound bandage care can prevent this from happening.</p>                     |