

1. Please monitor the toes for any swelling. Typically, this is manifested by the middle two nails spreading apart (in a normal animal, these toe nails should be touching). If swelling is noticed, it is important to call a veterinarian immediately to report the condition. If a veterinarian cannot be reached, the bandage should be removed and your pet should be brought in for evaluation.
2. Many bandage materials constrict when wet. It is important that the bandage be kept clean and dry to prevent this from happening. If the ground is wet when taking your pet outside, the bandage should be covered with a plastic bag and walks should be kept short.
3. If a foul odor is noticed coming from the bandaged leg, the animal should be brought in for evaluation.
4. It is essential that your pet's activity is restricted until the fracture has healed. Under any circumstances, your pet is **not allowed to run, jump, or roughhouse with other animals**. The splint applied to your pet's leg should hold, but if there is too much activity, it may break or loosen. The amount of time it takes to heal is variable, but in most cases a minimum of two months of restricted activity is recommended. Excessive motion may also lead to the bandage slipping down and can lead to serious problems.
5. Bandages and splints can sometimes cause skin irritation at the proximal or distal extents. It is important to examine the skin near the ends of the bandage for any irritation. If irritation is noticed, it is not an emergency, but your veterinarian should be notified.
6. If your pet was initially using the leg well and stops using the leg, this may be a problem and your veterinarian should be contacted.
7. Bandages should be checked regularly to ensure that no complications are occurring. It is best that your pet be evaluated at least weekly to avoid complications.
8. Periodically, radiographs of your pet's limb to assess healing. Please do not feed your pet on the day that radiographic appointments are scheduled in case sedation needs to be administered.