

BANDAGE CARE

Reasons to schedule an immediate bandage change:

- An odor coming from the bandage.
- The bandage has slipped from its original position.
- <animal> seems more painful at the site of the bandage.
- <animal> has managed to chew on the bandage.
- The bandage has gotten exposed to liquids no matter how minor the spill or how dry the bandage feels is an indication for an immediate bandage change.

It is very important to keep <animal>'s bandage clean and dry. Have <animal> wear the plastic bootie provided when going outside. <animal> should be walked on a leash just long enough to go to the bathroom and then come right back inside. Once inside immediately remove the bootie. If you leave the bootie on too long it will cause moisture and heat to build up and will result in sores and a skin infection.

Any exposure to water/moisture no matter how minimal warrants an immediate bandage change. Even if you wipe the water off immediately and the bandage feels dry to the touch an immediate bandage change is still needed. The water will wick through the layers of bandaging/padding straight to the skin. The skin will stay moist and create the perfect environment for pressure sores and a skin infection.

A good comparison would be wearing socks that you wrung the water out of until they were damp. If you wore these damp socks with your shoes and walked around you would have some serious blisters and sores in a matter of hours. The same is true of your dog. To avoid this you must bring <animal> in immediately if the bandage gets wet or even just slightly damp. Keep <animal> from moving around until your appointment in order to prevent friction and pressure sores.

If pressure sores or a skin infection develops then the bandage changes can no longer be done every few days. The bandage will need to be changed daily.