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Cast and Splint Homecare Instructions

It is very important that the cast/splint be well cared for at all times. The cast needs to be evaluated every 10-14 days by a veterinarian. Please schedule an appointment to have the cast examined and/or changed at our office or with your family veterinarian.

Please examine the cast daily. Watch for signs of swelling above and below the cast/splint and feel the toes twice daily to ensure there is good sensation and that the toes are warm and not swollen. If the cast becomes wet or slips from its original position, it may not perform its intended function and may even harm the limb by creating sores or cutting off the blood supply. The bandage material beneath the cast/splint also needs to remain dry at all times. If there is a need to go outside during wet weather, a plastic bag must be placed over the cast to keep it dry. The bag should be removed from the cast except while outside the bag will cause moisture to accumulate leading to skin irritation. If any abnormalities are noted please schedule a recheck appointment with our office or your family veterinarian to have the bandage under the cast changed and the cast reapplied the same day the problem is noticed.

If any of the following situations occur, please schedule an appointment with our hospital or with your family veterinarian the same day the problem is noticed.

- A change in the position of the cast/splint
- Chewing on the cast/splint
- Signs of persistent discomfort
- Any unusual or foul odor coming from the cast
- Any unexplained soiling of the cast (may be coming from the limb)
- Any sores that develop at the top or bottom of the cast
- Swelling of the toes or the portion of the limb above the cast
- Getting the cast wet, even if it is from the patient licking

Casts may be somewhat uncomfortable for your pet; minor licking can be expected. A few animals will persist in trying to remove or destroy the cast and will need to be fitted with an Elizabethan collar. If there are any signs of problems, it is always best to consult with our office or your family veterinarian right away.