

Soft Cast Dressings

Your pet has a bandage on its leg. Bandages are not simple, benign things that require no looking after. Bandages that become wet, slip or are too tight can cause serious problems which at their worst can result in the limb requiring amputation.



The above pictures are of a dressing removed from a dog that was allowed unrestricted access to the owner's horse yard whilst wearing a dressing. The dressing was covered in slurry and luckily was removed in time before a significant problem occurred. Dressings must be kept clean and dry!

In order to improve the bandage comfort and support and avoid slippage we have used a Soft Cast outer layer. We will always leave the toes exposed at the end of the bandage, this helps you to see if it has slipped and also helps to assess whether it may have become wet.

To avoid problems with bandages please follow these important rules.

1. Always keep the bandage clean and dry, if it becomes wet or soiled please contact your vet to arrange for it to be changed.
2. If the bandage slips please contact your vet to have it changed.

3. If your pet is obviously distressed by the bandage contact your vet as a matter of urgency and ask to speak to a vet or nurse, it may require urgent removal.

It is usually necessary to sedate a patient to remove a Soft cast dressing so please make this arrangement with your vet. In the case of an emergency removal the Soft cast layer has been scored down the front which make removal easier.

Note for primary care vets:

The top layer will have adhered to the immediate under layer and so removal is not as simple as just unwinding the outer layer. I always score down the front and it is sometimes needed to cut the K band layer under this either carefully with a blade or bandage scissors, this makes removal much easier, I always suggest that patients are sedated to have a dressing removed as this makes the process much easier and means another can be applied easily if need be. Below are a series of pictures demonstrating its removal.



First simply unwind the outer Vet Wrap layer to expose the underlying Soft Cast layer with the cut along the dorsal surface. The Soft Cast will have adhered to the K Band.



Using curved bandage scissors carefully cut the underlying K band layer so that the K band and Soft Cast layers can be removed as one.



Now simply unwind the Sof Band layer and the second K Band layers and then the underlying Cotton Wool layer to expose the wound covered with a Primapore and the tape stirrups



Finally using either spirit or preferably "Ease Off" remove the stirrups and Primapore to expose the healing wound and stitches.

If in any doubt ring me.

Pat Ridge