

Bandaging:

- First ensure the area is clean and dry
- Place a nonadherent gauze over any wounds
 - Otherwise it will be painful and difficult to remove the bandage.
- Avoid placing any topicals such as ointments or gels onto the wound
 - If you have an appointment within 24 hours, just bandage the area until your appointment
 - If it is going to be several days, you can use Vetericyn spray, Silver Sulfa ointment or spray, or a triple antibiotic ointment once daily until your appointment. However, please know ointments can make a wound worse if overused.
 - What about honey? Medical grade honey is an excellent choice for most wounds. HOWEVER, this MUST be medical grade honey. Store bought or local honey may contain bacteria that can make the wound worse.
- Materials you'll need:
 - Non-adherent Telfa pad/Gauze pad
 - Roll gauze
 - Vet wrap
- Bandaging technique:
 - Place non-adherent gauze directly over top of the wound
 - Roll gauze from toes up to at least 2 inches above the area of the wound.

- The tricky part is not making this layer too loose or too tight

- If it is too loose, the bandage will slip off
- If it is too tight the toes can swell or become cool to the touch



- Vet wrap is wrapped as the outside layer to help hold the bandage material in place and keep it clean and dry

- Be sure that the 2nd layer of gauze sticks out above and below the bandage to prevent the vet wrap tightening down having a tourniquet effect (cutting off circulation) to the body
 - For wounds, this bandage MUST be changed daily
- Bandage Complications to monitor CLOSELY for:
 - Swollen toes
 - Worsening of the wound
 - Redness, moisture, infection of the skin
 - Tissue necrosis (this is when the skin loses circulation becomes dark, has a bad odor)
- A wet bandage is DANGEROUS!
 - The bandage MUST stay clean and dry at ALL times
- When to call the veterinarian:
 - The bandage is wet, dirty
 - The toes are swollen, feel warmer or cooler to touch than the other toes
 - There is any odor coming from the toes, bandage, or wound
- Additional ways to protect the bandage:
 - Here at the clinic we often use IV bags to cover the bandage when pets go outside
 - Socks, t-shirts, plastic bags can also be used
 - It is critical that these covers be taken off when the pet comes inside otherwise moisture and condensation build up between the protective layer and the bandage. Remember, any moisture around a bandage is BAD!