



GENERAL WEAR AND CARE INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOUR CUSTOM ORTHOTIC/PROSTHETIC DEVICE:

Your Animal Orthocare clinician/veterinarian has gone over how to put on and remove your device at the time of the final fitting. Remember to keep the brace snug. It was designed this way and wearing it loosely will result in friction and skin irritation. The following will serve as a reminder to refer to when you have a general question regarding the wear and care of your pet's orthosis/prosthesis. Please do not hesitate to contact Animal Orthocare with any further questions or concerns (703) 474-6204.

Break-In Period

Similar to breaking in a new pair of shoes, the custom orthosis/prosthesis must be worn in short, increasing increments in order to build up a tolerance to the device. Both the length of the break-in period and the time of each increment will depend on your pet's diagnosis and should be discussed with your Animal Orthocare practitioner and/or veterinarian. For best results, place the brace on your pet for only ½ hour the first day and increase by ½ hour per day. If there is any irritation or skin break-down, discontinue use for 1 full day. A short period of time is required before your pet accepts the orthotic/prosthetic device. In order to facilitate your pet's acceptance of the device, the orthosis/prosthesis should be associated with positive reinforcement, such as a treat.

Skin & Brace Examination

It is of extreme importance that your pet's skin is inspected thoroughly after every usage. This is especially important during the "break-in period." The occurrence of skin redness that does not disappear within 20 minutes or evidence of skin breakdown is a sign of excessive pressure. Any unusual marks on the skin, blisters, or excessive wearing of the device should also be noted. If any of the previously mentioned conditions present themselves please discontinue usage of the device and contact Animal Orthocare. Keep in mind, it is not uncommon to see minor problems within the first few weeks. These devices can easily be modified to relieve any areas of irritation. It is also important to inspect the device regularly for any cracks or tears. Padding and Velcro can be replaced by calling or making an appointment with Animal Orthocare.

Proper Hygiene

It is important to keep both the skin in contact with the device as well as the orthosis/prosthesis clean; this will reduce the chance of your pet contracting contact dermatitis or other skin conditions. Your pet's device should be cleaned regularly using a mix of ½ water-½ alcohol and a clean towel. Use a towel or let the orthosis/prosthesis dry at room temperature; please do not use a hairdryer to speed up the process. Cotton socks have been provided to help with excessive sweating and to keep the device clean. You can wash these with soap and warm water to keep clean. Never put a wet brace or cotton stockinet on your pet. Some devices can be worn in the water, but please ask first.

