

Bandages And Wounds

So there's a **wound** (surgical or homemade) with **stitches** under a **bandage** on this pet. What do you have to know? When there's a bandage on the wound, there's a delicate balance. Most of the time a bandage properly protected and cared for is a great benefit. Other times, a bandage that gets wet, is left on too long, or is put on incorrectly by the owner without 25 years of experience (heh heh 😊) can-and-does do a catastrophic amount of harm.

| Pros | Cons |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Protects wound from licking | Gets wet and constricts |
| Protects wound from germs + dirt | Put on too tight and starts killing tissue |
| Absorbs juices | Gets wet and sets up infection in wounds |
| Keeps gentle pressure on the wound | Gets full of plasma/blood and grows germs |
| Holds medicines on the wound | Attracts pet to lick and fuss over the bandage |

"If A Little Time in a Bandage is Good, Longer Time Must Be Better"

False. The bandage picks up juices and blood sometimes, and sweats, and the mixture is a perfect home for bad germs. So don't add a day or improvise on the direction and date to remove / have-removed a bandage.

"I didn't think she'd chew off the bandage."

Once you put a bandage on a dog, especially on an extremity like a tail or leg or foot, it's literally ALL they think about whether it seems like that or not. And they're far from dumb. They COMMONLY wait until bed time and when it's all quiet or you're out running errands they just plop down and wreck their bandages. I hear this ALL THE TIME – "she wasn't bothering her bandage at all, all day! Then boop! The bandage was gone".

"She got her bandage off and we figured it would be okay to bring her in the morning"

Not-so-much. They can do a gigantic amount of damage to a wound once they have access. I have seen wounds completely unstitched and opened in under an hour. You have choices if they get their bandages off. Hustle in to me or the emergency clinic and have the bandage replaced. Sock an extremity to protect it from licking and chewing until the bandage can be replaced.

(<http://johnsonvet.com/socking>) Or, put a cone-collar (Elizabethan collar, cone of shame lol) on the pet to keep it from wrecking the incision / stitches.

"What Bandages and Wounds ALWAYS Mess Up?"

Wounds / surgeries on **tails, ear flaps, feet and cancers**. When you remove the tip of the tail you can count on trouble and at least 3-4 revisits to bandage the tail. When you do ear flap surgeries bandages changes become a 'thing' kind of like tails. When you have stitches on a foot, those are messy because it's constant pressure and motion on the wound. And they have easy access to wreck their foot bandage. And finally, when you do surgery to remove a cancer, you're stitching up 'unhealthy' skin in the vicinity and it never heals as well as normal skin. So all of the above as far as 'concerns' are even more critical.