Casting Instructions

Taking an accurate and precise cast or impression of the affected body part is critical in obtaining a well-fitting orthotic or prosthetic device. Before casting please call My Pet’s Brace to discuss the casting procedure. Read instructions completely before you begin.

These instructions are general casting instructions and can be used to take a cast for a front or hind limb orthoses or prostheses. With the appropriate materials this is an easy procedure and can be accomplished in less than 10 minutes. In that time you will put stockinet over the limb, cast the limb with fiberglass casting tape, remove the cast and complete a measurement sheet.

It’s always best to prepare all the materials ahead of time before you start the casting procedure. If you’ve purchased a casting kit from My Pet’s Brace you will have most of the supplies necessary. You will also need bandage scissors, razor knife or scalpel, and a marking pen. Review the casting checklist to insure you have everything necessary before you begin.

1. It’s always best to have a helper occupy the dog while the other person is doing the casting. Treats are a good way to keep the dog’s attention off the casting procedure.
2. Start by getting the dog in a comfortable position. Generally it’s best to have the dog lay on the side opposite the side you are going to cast.
3. Pull on the cotton stockinet that was provided in the casting kit. The stockinet should be at least 3 inches above the top of the cast. A rubber band can secure the stockinet at the top.
4. Lay the black or yellow cutting strip on the front of the leg and secure it at the top with the rubber band. You can also add a rubber band at the bottom of the dog’s leg to secure the bottom of the casting strip.
5. Take a fiberglass roll and submerge it in tepid water for about 10 seconds, and then squeeze out the excess water.

You have about 3-4 minutes to roll the fiberglass casting tape on the limb. After that time the cast will harden. If you wait too long you will have difficulty getting the cast off.

6. Start rolling the fiberglass casting tape at the very bottom of the dog’s limb and work your way up the limb overlapping about ½ of the width of the roll at a time. Always roll away from you. Make sure your cutting strip is straight and to the front of the leg.
7. Smooth the cast with your hands in order to bind the layers of tape together. There should be at least 2-3 layers of fiberglass casting over the length of the cast.
8. Now, position the dog’s leg as if the dog was in a standing position with the paw flat on the floor. The carpal, elbow, tarsal, hock or stifle should be in the amount of flexion or extension you desire the final brace to be in.

9. After 2-3 minutes the cast will start to firm up and get hard. You do not want the cast to get hard before you cut it off. It should be slightly flexible.

10. Draw a line using a marking pen denoting where the middle of the cut strip is located.

11. Use a box-cutter, razor knife, hook knife or scalpel to carefully cut along the cutting strip.

12. Pull the cutting strip out of the cast and then use bandage scissors to cut the cotton stockinet.

13. You can now quickly remove the cast from the dog’s leg.

14. Write the name of the dog, right or left leg, front or hind, veterinarian and dog owner on the cast.

15. Use tape to close the cast so it does not spread too wide.

16. Use the measurement sheet to record circumference and length measurements. Always make sure that you fill out the measurement form completely.

17. If possible send pictures of the dog or email to order@mypetsbrace.com

18. Send the cast and measurement sheet to:

   My Pet’s Brace  
   3505 E. Main Street  
   Morgantown, PA 19543  
   P 1-610-286-0018  
   F 1-610-286-0021