

The 'Oops' Bandaging Dog



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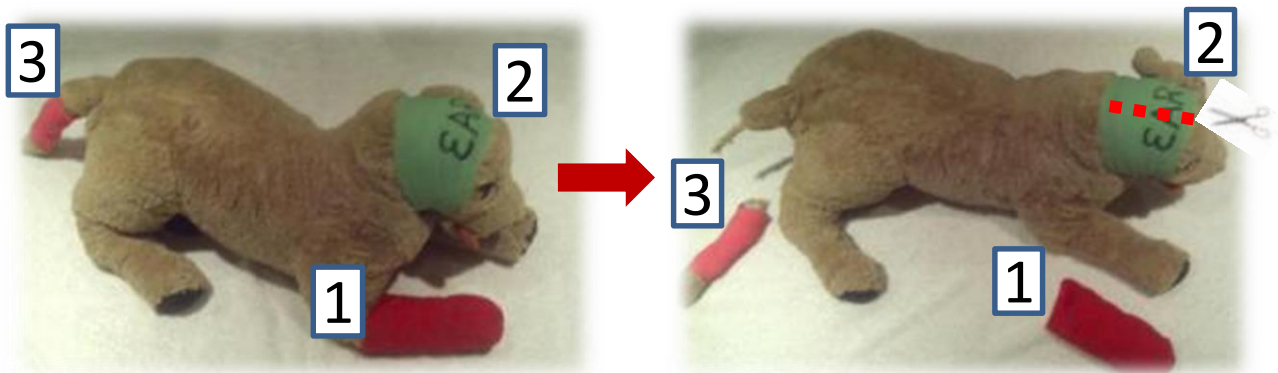
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Why is it so important to get bandaging right?

The model illustrates 3 potential hazards (mistakes): one annoying but trivial (1), the others more serious (2 & 3)...

1) If a bandage is too loose... (*red bandage in the photos*)

This happened to a new graduate with one of the first bandages applied:

"It looked very neat and I was pleased with my handiwork, as was the client but..."

Once the dog was on the floor it took a few steps, shook its leg and the bandage flew off and hit the door. The evening surgery was already running late and it was going to take another 10 minutes to redo the bandage...

2) A head bandage for an ear... e.g. aural haematoma or suturing a cut or to stop a bleeding cut or wound... (*green bandage in the photos*)

An excellent tip from the nurse who was helping apply the bandage was to remember to write 'EAR' on the bandage so that the person removing the bandage realises that the ear may be flapped up and over the head i.e. so doesn't accidentally cut the ear.

3) A bandage that's too tight... (*pink bandage in the photos*)

This can happen if e.g. there isn't enough padding, the stretchy self-adhesive bandage is applied too tightly, the bandage slips and becomes tight, or sometimes if the skin is too tight after the wound has been closed and sutured.

When using stretchy self-adhesive bandage be careful not to unroll the bandage in the same movement as applying the bandage (possibly consider unrolling and re-rolling the bandage before use). To see what can happen if the action is incorrect: Try wrapping the bandage around your arm pulling the bandage off the reel in the same action as wrapping it around. It will soon become apparent that the combined action can result in the bandage being applied too tightly.