

Small Animal Bandaging, Casting and Splinting Techniques

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to the veterinarians, veterinary technicians, residents, interns, veterinary students, and especially the animals that will benefit from its use.

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Veterinary Wound Management Society Mission

“The mission of the Veterinary Wound Management Society is to advance the art and science of animal wound management, thus promoting excellence in the field.”



Foreword

Bandage application is a daily activity in most small animal practices. Challenges arise due to variations in size, shape, injury type and location, activity level, and desire (or lack thereof!) to keep a bandage in place posed by our veterinary patients. Successful bandaging is both an art and a science. *The art*: thinking outside the box for creative solutions to protect injuries in even the most awkward of locations. *The science*: selecting bandage components that work positively with the biology of wound healing and use the laws of physics to advantage. This book successfully incorporates both.

As so aptly stated in chapter I, sound clinical judgment is important when applying and modifying bandages. The authors of this book have a wealth of expertise in managing wounds in veterinary patients and are major contributors to the research that backs up these techniques. Indeed, Dr. Steven F. Swaim's name is synonymous with wound management in veterinary medicine; veterinary patients worldwide are the beneficiaries of his extensive scholarship in the field and his passion for teaching with which he so successfully educates members of the veterinary profession. Dr. Walter C. Renberg is a veterinary surgeon and teacher with wide-ranging clinical and research experience who brings his specialized knowledge of orthopedic injury and biomechanics to the subject of bandaging. Ms. Kathy M. Shike has extensive hands-on bandaging experience as a small animal surgery technician and instructor for veterinary students and has contributed to many

research projects in the field. The clinical and research experiences of the authors are translated here into a format that the reader can use to make sound bandaging decisions for his or her own patients.

Step-by-step illustrated instructions on a range of bandaging techniques are a unique component of this book and provide a very practical, visual guide. Specific instructions on bandage application are rounded out by clearly organized information on the indications, aftercare, safe removal or modification, and potential complications of each bandage type. This material is further enhanced by plenty of helpful tips stemming from the extensive personal experiences of the authors. Throughout the text there is an emphasis on patient comfort and selecting a bandage type that will best support healing in each individual.

As current president of the Veterinary Wound Management Society, I would like to say that the VWMS is exceptionally pleased to endorse *Small Animal Bandaging, Casting, and Splinting Techniques*. The authors have expertly integrated the art and science of bandaging into a very clinically applicable text. This book will be a frequently used and most welcome resource for practitioners and trainees alike in the veterinary profession.

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