

General Tips and Instructions for a Custom Elbow Orthotic

- **How much of the front limb do I need to mold for an elbow brace?**
 - Begin molding from as high into the arm-pit as you can.
 - End your impression by including the paw.
- **Before I apply the material, do I wrap the limb with cast padding, multiple layers of stockinet, or roll of elastic self adhesive bandages to protect the limb?**
 - **NO!** Make sure that you use the Glad brand "Press-n-Seal" plastic wrap between the patient's limb and the fiberglass material.
 - This is similar to the old Saran wrap. However, the new "Press-N-Seal" plastic wrap has a tacky backing to it.
 - The tacky backing will allow you to compress down the fur to expose bony landmarks.
 - It will also ensure that the plastic wrap stays in place for you during your casting procedure.
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- **Do I Bi-Valve the cast to remove it from the limb?**
 - No, because you will only have made your cast with **one roll** of fiberglass casting material, you can simply cut down the OrthoPets cutting strip that was placed on the front (cranial) aspect of the limb and slide the cast off.
 - Your well fused fiberglass impression will retain its shape and define bony landmarks better this way than a Bi-Valved mold would otherwise.
 - If you have an OrthoPets fiberglass impression kit, you will place the yellow rubber cut strip down the front (cranial) aspect of the limb. If you don't have an OrthoPets fiberglass impression kit, you could substitute the cut strip with a 1/4" surgical tubing or drip line. This will serve the same function and ensure that the limb is protected from your desired cutting tool.
 - As you do not have any cast padding or stockinet, the cut strip or tube will provide a place to cut the impression off the limb without coming into contact with the patient's skin.
- **Does the animal usually get sedated for the impression?**
 - OrthoPets does not sedate any patients.
 - The procedure will take approximately 10 minutes to complete.



Specific Casting Instructions

We have stated several times about the thickness of the impression and method used to make the impression, those two points are what will make this project successful or not. The quality of the mold OrthoPets receives from you will in-part determine the fit and function of the device OrthoPets fabricates. Please call our offices (303-953-2545) with any questions before your scheduled impression appointment.



1. Begin by wrapping the limb with “Press-N-Seal” plastic wrap. Present the plastic wrap as high above the elbow joint into the arm-pit to ensure you have the limb protected from the fiberglass.
 - Place an additional piece of plastic wrap onto the chest wall to prevent the casting material from touching the chest accidentally.
2. Tape the OrthoPets provided Cut Strip, or your ¼” rubber tube on the front (cranial) aspect of the limb.
 - Ensure the cut strip or rubber tube presents above the level of the arm-pit and extends down below the carpus (wrist joint).
3. Remove casting material from pouch, submerge in room temperature water for 5-8 seconds, and gently squeeze material to ensure complete water saturation. Remove roll from water and gently squeeze out excess water. **YOU HAVE APPROXIMATELY 2-3 MINUTES OF WORKING TIME BEFORE MATERIAL SETS.**
4. Apply the fiberglass material with a double wrap as high into the arm-pit as possible.
5. Spiral wrap (*Just like an ACE Bandage*) material down the limb being careful to **only overlap 1/2** of the previous layer.
 - This will create a thin mold that will fuse well together and better define bony landmarks without getting overly thick and difficult to cut off.
 - Be careful not to wrap too tightly and compress soft tissue
6. Continue wrapping down the limb and end just below carpus (wrist) joint.
7. Cut any excess casting material off and discard.
8. Begin rubbing the layers of casting material together.
 - This will ensure that the layers are bonding together and ensuring the casting material is conforming around any bony landmarks.
9. Spend extra time rubbing the casting material around the elbow joint and the carpus (wrist) joint.



10. Once the casting material has hardened, cut through the fiberglass casting material over the cut strip or rubber tube.
 - If you have an OrthoPets casting kit, you can utilize the hook blade. Start a 1" cut at the proximal end of the mold with bandage scissors. Then simply "pull" the hook blade down the cut strip. The blade will easily and smoothly cut the hardened fiberglass cast.



11. Next, using bandage scissors, cut through the "Press-N-Seal" plastic wrap.
12. Remove cast off the limb. Then remove the "Press-N-Seal" and tape from cast.
13. Lastly, **immediately tape the cast back** together to allow the material to completely cure without losing any if the shape.
14. Write the patient's first and last name, Left or Right side, and date on cast.

It may seem like a difficult process, but you will find that by making a well fused thin impression the process will only take a few minutes and will turn out great!