

## Purpose

Supported sling walking is a means to assist your pet during rehabilitation following various orthopedic or neurologic surgical procedures. The idea behind sling walking is to support and protect the rear end and rear limbs of your pet. You do not want to lift the rear end off the ground, but rather provide support so your pet feels some weight on their rear legs. The sling should be used to help keep your pet from falling down or slipping. In more complicated cases, the sling will be very useful in helping your pet get up, move around and perform bathroom duties. In some cases a **Help Em Up** harness may be recommended instead.

## How to Properly Use Sling

The sling provided at time of discharge to loop underneath your pet's belly just in front of the rear legs. The sling should be long enough to allow you to stand in an upright position while supporting your pet. (Fig 1) You can hold the sling and leash in separate hands, or in one hand. (Fig 2)

In male dogs it may be necessary to place the sling in front of the prepuce while supporting your pet during ambulation and urination/defecation. (Fig 3) Some male dogs will tolerate the sling over their prepuce without complaint. (Fig 4) Others will refuse to move with the sling in this position. It may be necessary to reposition the sling once your pet is up and walking.

During the initial rehabilitation period, slide the sling under your pet while they are in a laying position, then use the sling to help lift them up into a standing position. From this point, use the sling for support and control to help guide your pet when walking.

As your pet becomes stronger they will no longer need the sling to get up. However it still should be used to support and stabilize the rear end while walking to prevent falling in the event rear legs were to slip or give out.

