

Sling Supported Walking

SLING SUPPORTED WALKING is a means by which to assist your pet during rehabilitation following various orthopedic or neurologic surgical procedures or injuries.

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 enough support so that your pet feels some weight on their rear legs and feet, and **MOST IMPORTANTLY** does not slip or fall while ambulating. Depending upon the injury, or surgery, you may be asked to do nothing more with the sling than use it to help slow your pet down and prevent slipping. In more complicated or severe injuries, or post-op surgery situations, the sling will be very useful in helping your pet to get up, move around, and even perform bathroom duties.



- ◇ Use the sling provided at the 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. You can hold the sling and leash in separate hands (Fig.1), or in one hand as shown in Fig.2. Again, the goal is not to lift your pet's rear end off the ground but to provide support, guidance, and protection against slipping and falling.

◊ In **male** dogs, it may be necessary to place the sling **in front** of the prepuce while supporting your pet during ambulation or urination/defecation. Some male dogs will tolerate the sling over their prepuce without complaint (as seen in Fig.3), others will refuse to move with the sling in this position. It may thus be necessary to reposition the sling once your pet is up and moving.

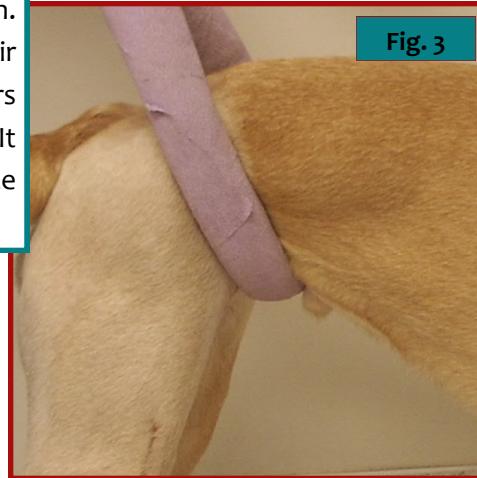


Fig. 3

◊ During the initial rehabilitation period (the first couple days or week following surgery), 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 during ambulation.

◊ As your pet becomes stronger, they will no longer need the sling for help when getting up; however, the sling should still be used to support and stabilize the rear end while walking and to prevent accidents if the rear legs were to slip or give out.



Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6