BREAK-IN PERIOD

This new brace might feel strange at first to your pet, but over time they will come to accept it. For best results, use positive reinforcement, such as treats, when applying the brace. It may take up to two weeks before your pet comes to accept their brace.

Similar to breaking in a new pair of shoes, your custom orthotic should first be worn in short increments, increasing daily as your pet builds a tolerance to their brace.

Start with one hour of wear on the first day and increase that time by an hour per day. This time can be broken into smaller segments throughout the day in 15-30 minute increments, if needed. Once the dog has fully adapted to the brace, total wearing time should be around 8-12 hours per day.

- DO NOT allow the brace to be worn at night, or while the dog is being crated.

ACTIVITY LEVEL & RESTRICTIONS

- For the first 2-3 weeks, take a few short 10-15 minute walks per day. Gradually increase the length of walks as tolerated.

- During the first 4-6 months, limit stair use as much as possible and avoid slippery floors. Try to prevent the dog from jumping or rough housing, and avoid playing strenuous games of fetch.

- The brace can be worn in the water, but use caution and do not leave a wet brace on the dog after water activity. Take the brace off, rinse the brace off with fresh water if in salt water, thoroughly dry the brace and the dog’s leg, then put the brace back on.

  - The foam is non-porous and does not trap water, but the straps and strap pads take time to dry. Please hang the brace and its components to air dry. Make sure that the brace is completely dry before re-fitting.

- Indoor dogs that are relatively inactive and are not easily excitable can wear the brace only when they are outside.
SKIN EXAMINATION & HYGIENE

It is of extreme importance that your pet’s skin is thoroughly inspected daily, after every use. This is especially important during the “break-in period.” Excessive pressure most often results in skin irritation and redness, pinch points, and sore spots, which can be easily avoided. Any unusual marks on the skin, blisters, or excessive wearing of the device should also be noted. Keep in mind, it’s common to see minor problems within the first few weeks, and braces can be modified to relieve any areas of irritation.

Discontinue use of the brace and contact your veterinarian & KVP Ortho if you observe any:

- Significant hair loss
- Hot spots
- Sores
- Blisters

BRACE CARE

In addition to examining your pet, regular inspection of the brace can help protect its longevity. Over time, pet owners will need to tighten the brace’s screws; depending on the amount of use, this may be needed every 3-6 months. This can be done using an Allen Wrench and Phillips Head Screwdriver. Aside from loose screws or hinges, which happen normally over time, cracks or tears can develop. Padding and Velcro® can also wear thin or tear. Each of these items can be fixed, replaced, or adjusted.

Over time, your pet’s brace may become dirty, or need cleaning. Using a solution of equal parts water and rubbing alcohol, wipe the brace clean with a towel and let air dry. You can also use cleaning, or antibacterial wipes. DO NOT soak the brace. Wait until the brace is completely dry before re-fitting it onto your pet.

If the brace has overly compressed padding, you can use a hairdryer to restore the padding to a more normal state.

ADJUSTMENTS AND MODIFICATIONS

During the fitting process, adjustments are often needed to obtain an accurate fit. Sometimes, these do not become obvious until the brace has been worn for several weeks. Adjustments might take the form of needing extra padding, shortening straps, or trimming down an area of the brace. If adjustments are needed, please contact us to discuss.

We will request pictures of the brace on and off the dog, and a video of the dog’s gait, taken at dog’s eye level, for us to evaluate. Please e-mail the pictures, video, and a detailed explanation of any problem areas to: Support@KVPortho.com

Any needed modifications or replacement parts are covered under our warranty during the first 60 days after the original delivery of the brace. Please see our Terms & Conditions for more details and information.