

IVDD

how to care for your dog's bathroom needs during conservative treatment

During crate rest, carry your dog outside or to the pee pad

Do not let your dog walk or explore; fence in a little area if that helps

If your dog cannot stand well, support them with a sling to keep spine aligned

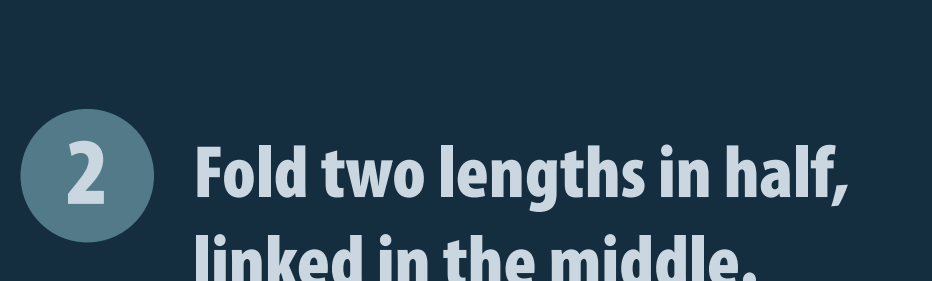
How to quickly make a sling



1 Fold up a towel lengthwise and pass it beneath her abdomen.



2 If the towel is fluffy and obscures movement, cut it in half lengthwise.



1 Cut a towel in half lengthwise (or in quarters if very fluffy).



2 Fold two lengths in half, linked in the middle.



3 Create the leg holes with VetRap tape.

Has your dog lost bladder and bowel control?

Your vet or vet tech can teach you to express your dog's bladder.



they will show you where to find your dog's bladder

they will show you how much pressure is appropriate

be sure to give your dog water an hour before your appointment

return for as many lessons as you need to feel confident!



<i>expressing</i>	<i>diapers</i>
A regular schedule prevents wet bedding and infection	Your dog has to lie in their own mess until changing
Urine doesn't stay against the skin	Urine against the skin can scald and cause sores
With a short time of practicing, you can become proficient to fully empty their bladder	Bladder does not fully empty, it is simply overflowing, creating the perfect environment for urinary tract infections
Express every 2 to 4 hours while learning. Move to 6 to 8 hours when proficient.	A last resort at times you cannot be home to express regularly

SIGNS OF A UTI

- cloudy or red-tinged urine
- foul-smelling urine
- difficulty emptying bladder
- yelping or crying when you try to express the bladder
- licking genital area
- general symptoms of infection like fever, lethargy, loss of appetite, etc.

UTIs can lead to **bladder infections, stones, and kidney infections**, and you've got enough to worry about right now!

If you suspect a UTI, your vet will do a urinalysis in the clinic and prescribe an broad-spectrum antibiotic. The urine culture is sent out to identify the specific bacteria so a more exact antibiotic can be prescribed.

A word on poo

The bowel empties on its own by reflex, but you can learn to express that, too, with shore strokes on either side of the tail and the area under the anus.



With a consistent schedule, you may never have an accident in the house while your incontinent dog is recovering!



Questions about IVDD? From symptoms to meds...

look for more in the series "IVDD Primer"

This information is intended for general knowledge only and is not a substitute for professional veterinary advice, diagnosis or treatment, nor is it intended to replace consultation with a qualified veterinarian.