

## The paw that healed...



Just like the shoe-maker's children, although I am a Nurse, I didn't have all I needed in-house to deal with this, so I put a quick bandage on and then headed off to the drugstore for supplies. What followed were twice daily dressing changes for the first couple of weeks and then daily for the next couple of weeks. At first my hubby would help hold his paw (Lasz has very ticklish feet) while I did the dressing, but I could also do it alone after awhile. I used Aqueous Chlorhexidine spray antiseptic (this was the worst part as it must have tickled going on), allowing that to dry, then a small blob of polysporin ointment on a telfa pad (to prevent sticking), then some gauze. A couple turns around with cling (gauze roll) to hold the gauze squares in place. This was followed by one of my old socks which went up to Lasz's elbow, and finally a tensor (just tight enough to keep everything in place but loose enough to allow good circulation to his foot). I was worried that he would chew the bandage off, but he was a good soul, and tolerated the dressing changes without too much fuss, and left his foot alone the entire time.

Once again, Murphy's Law came into play as the rains decided to come. Rather than have to change the dressing each time he went out to potty, I now had to wrap his bandaged foot in a plastic bag to keep the dressing dry. Other than being a little spooked by the noise of the plastic, he didn't mind and there was the added benefit that he could sneak in a kiss while I was bent over wrapping or un-wrapping his foot. After a month the wound was entirely healed and only a small scar remains.

Ironically, he had cut his foot on one of the wires at the front of a crate- a crate that we have used for 11 years. I guess when he came charging out to greet me, his foot made the connection with the wire, and bingo. The wire has since been coated with nail polish to cover the sharp edge, and my canine first aid kit is better stocked.

Pam Laprise

*Editors Note: This is one way to treat a cut pad, please consult with you veterinarian for situation specific treatment. It is very important to monitor wounds for infection, and if one occurs, to take your dog to the vet.*

Our experience with a cut pad began mid-June last summer. I had come into the house and the normal frenzied greeting by my 2 Vizsla's began as I tried to dump the groceries on a flat surface. I quickly realized that something was amiss, as there were blood splashes all over the kitchen floor. I found the source to be a cut on Laszlo's pad- at the top of the big pad on his front foot.

Poor Lasz, now over the excitement of my return, he was feeling the pain from his foot and trembling. I applied pressure to get the bleeding to stop but realized that it would re-open when he started walking around again.

Murphy's Law, it was late in the afternoon on a Saturday and the vet would be closing for the day. I also remembered reading on the V-list that Vets usually don't suture pads so I thought twice about taking him in and decided to try dressing it myself and watching carefully for any infection. The cut was about 3/4 inch wide and probably a good 1/4 inch deep leaving a flap of pad. It oozed blood for the first couple of weeks but there were no signs of infection.

