

HOCK BRACE

FIT AND CARE INSTRUCTIONS

Your dog is on the way to an active, happy life!

- STEP 1** Read and follow the Fit and Care Instructions below.
- STEP 2** Watch the [Hock Brace Fitting Tutorial](http://www.mypetsbrace.com/fitting-videos) video on our website at: www.mypetsbrace.com/fitting-videos.
- STEP 3** Email pictures of your dog standing while wearing the brace to have a clinician evaluate the fit of the brace. Take the pictures at your dog's eye level with front, side and rear views.
- STEP 4** We're here for you every step of the way. If you have questions or concerns at any point in the process, please contact us.



SCAN ME

WEARING INSTRUCTIONS

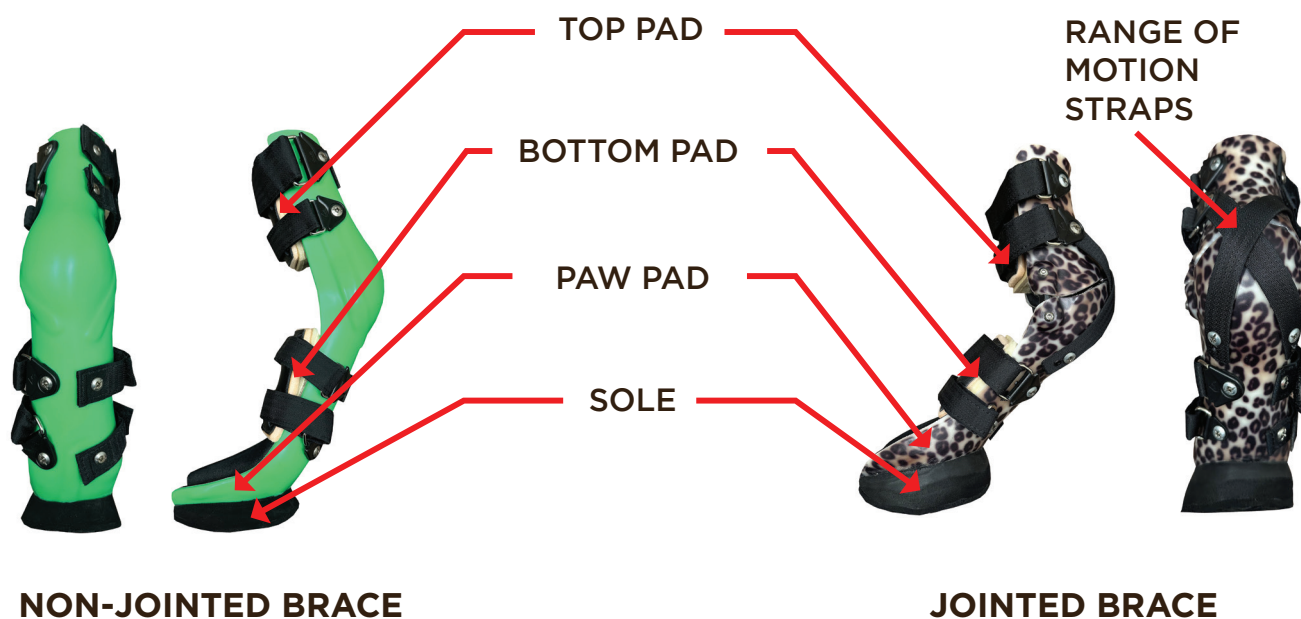
- ✓ Powder the inside of the brace daily (and if the brace gets wet) with cornstarch or baby powder.
 - ✓ Baby powder should be non-perfumed and non-medicated.
- ✓ Unless otherwise instructed by your veterinary professional, use a gradual break-in schedule to allow the dog to become familiar with the brace. Start with 2 hours on the first day and increase by an additional 1 hour per day as tolerated.
 - ✓ These are not continuous hours, but should be broken up into small segments.
 - ✓ Your dog should always be supervised during the break-in period.
- ✓ If your dog has two hock braces, we typically recommend starting with the more severely injured leg. 5-7 days later, start the break-in schedule with the opposite brace (while continuing to wear the original brace).
- ✓ Wearing times should build up to 8-14 hours a day. Unless instructed otherwise by your veterinarian or My Pet's Brace, put the brace on in the morning and take it off at night.
- ✓ The dog should not wear the brace at night or when they are crated, unless specifically instructed to do so by your veterinary professional.

ACTIVITY LEVEL / RESTRICTIONS

- ✓ For the first 2-3 weeks, take 2-3 short 5-10 minute walks per day.
- ✓ Gradually increase walks as tolerated.
- ✓ The brace can be worn while swimming/during water therapy. Consider applying a sock over the brace to cut down on drag. After the dog is done swimming- take the brace off, rinse the brace off with fresh water if in salt water, thoroughly dry the brace, the straps and the dog's leg. Re-powder the brace and then put the brace back on.

TYPES OF HOCK BRACES

Depending on your dog's injury or condition, your dog may have a jointed or non-jointed hock brace. Jointed braces may include range of motion straps on the back of the brace which control the degree of flexion at the joint. As your dog's injury or condition improves, the straps can be lengthened by changing which hole is attached to the brace. Please consult your veterinary professional or My Pet's Brace as to when or if the straps should be lengthened.



PUTTING THE BRACE ON

- 1 The dog can be standing or lying. Initially, lying down may be easier.
- 2 Liberally powder the inside of the brace with cornstarch or baby powder DAILY.
- 3 Place the dog's leg in the brace with the paw sitting flat in the brace. The limb should be all the way back into the brace.
- 4 Tighten the bottom two straps.
 - ✓ The bottom straps should be fairly tight, but not too tight as to cut off circulation to the limb. Use your one hand to keep your dog's leg in the brace and use your other hand to tighten the strap.
 - ✓ Center the pad on your dog's leg.



5 Tighten the top two straps

- ✓ The top straps do not need to be overly tight. You should be able to fit your pinky finger between the strap and the edge of the brace (less than a pinky finger for small dogs).
- ✓ Center the pad on your dog's leg.



6 Check the fit of the brace:

- ✓ No part of the brace should rub on the bones of the leg.
- ✓ The heel should be all the way back into the brace.
- ✓ Make sure the dog's paw does not extend over the edge of the paw pad of the brace. It is normal for the dog's nails to extend slightly over the paw pad of the brace. If the paw pad is more than ½" past the nails, the brace may need to be returned to My Pet's Brace to be trimmed. The length of the paw pad can vary depending on how the cast was taken.
- ✓ If there is excessive movement of the leg in the brace when the dog walks, tighten the straps of the brace. If that doesn't prevent the unwanted movement, the brace may need to be returned to My Pet's Brace for adjustments.



NEXT STEPS

- 1 To help your dog get used to the brace, while leashed, walk the dog very slowly back and forth.
- 2 Initially, it's perfectly normal for your dog to walk or sit funny with the brace. They may hop or stomp their leg. After a few minutes to several days, your dog will become comfortable wearing the brace. Every dog's adjustment time is different.
- 3 Inspect the dog's skin for any irritation. There may be some skin redness where the brace is in contact with the dog's leg since the goal of the brace is to control and restrict certain motions. Redness should dissipate within 15 minutes. Discontinue use of the brace if there are any signs of significant hair loss or sores and contact My Pet's Brace.



ADJUSTMENTS AND MODIFICATIONS

If adjustments are needed, please email us pictures of the dog standing with the brace and call us to discuss. Modifications and replacement parts are covered under our 120-day warranty. Our promise to you is that your pet's brace will fit correctly and comfortably.

REMOVING THE BRACE

Unhook the Velcro straps from top to bottom. Fold the straps back on themselves to keep from getting tangled.

CLEANING / MAINTENANCE

- ✓ Clean the brace using a washcloth and mild soapy water.
- ✓ Using the included wire brush, remove hair/dirt from the Velcro by brushing in one direction. Only brush on the hook or hard side of the Velcro.
- ✓ Every month, tighten the screws of the buckles using a flat head screwdriver.
- ✓ Inspect the brace for signs of wear. The sole of the brace, straps, and pads will need to be regularly replaced. Some dogs may wear through them every three months.
 - ✓ The brace needs to be returned to us for a new sole before the plastic of the paw pad starts to wear away. If the plastic paw pad is worn away, we may not be able to refurbish the brace, and you will have to pay for a new brace.



FOR CHEWERS

If your dog or another dog in your household is prone to chewing, spray the brace with a deterrent. You can spray directly on any part of the brace. Below are suggested products. They can be purchased online, at pet stores or your grocery store.

- ✓ Bitter Apple Spray
- ✓ Equine Crib Guard Spray
- ✓ Vinegar
- ✓ Chili Pepper
- ✓ Rubbing Alcohol