PET NAME: _____

PAWTHOTICS NZ

Orthotics and Prosthetics for Animals

CUSTOM HOCK BRACE

(ACHILLES PROGRESSIVE MODEL)

CARE HANDOUT

WELCOME TO THE PAWTHOTICS FAMILY

Thank you for choosing the Custom Hock Brace (Achilles Progressive) from Pawthotics NZ. This handout provides simple instructions to use and care for your pet's brace, ensuring comfort and recovery. Read and follow all guidelines carefully.

1. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

- **Purpose**: Supports your pet's hock joint for Achilles Tendon ruptures/partial ruptures, injuries, arthritis, or mobility issues.
- **Use**: Ideal for active periods indoors, outdoors, or in water (e.g., hydrotherapy).

2. KEY FEATURES RELEVANT TO ACHILLES TENDON REPAIR

- ALUMINIUM LOCK-OUT BAR: This completely immobilizes the tarsal (hock) joint by preventing any flexion or extension. It's the default setting for the initial conservative healing phase of Achilles tendon ruptures or partial ruptures.
- ACHILLES PROGRESSIVE STRAP: This is the additional adjustable strap that allows you to gradually introduce controlled flexion as healing progresses under veterinary guidance.
- It has multiple holes (typically 3).
- Each hole used adds approximately **15° of extra flexion**.
- Progression example:

Lock-out Bar only (no progressive strap engaged): 0° flexion (full immobilization)		
1st hole: ~15° flexion	**2nd hole: ~30° flexion**	**3rd hole: ~45° flexion**

This **step-wise** approach helps restore range of motion safely and prevents re-injury or stiffness.

(Your vet will tell you exactly when and how quickly to advance through the holes based on recheck exams or imaging.)

2. SAFETY TIPS

- Follow the break-in period to avoid irritation or injury.
- Remove the brace during long rest periods (e.g., overnight).
- Limit use to 14 hours daily after break-in to prevent skin issues.
- Stop use if you see blisters or redness lasting over 1 hour; email PawthoticsNZ@gmail.com

3. BREAK-IN PERIOD

Help your dog adjust to the brace gradually:

1. **Day 1**: Wear for 30 minutes.
2. **Each Day After**: Add 30 minutes daily, watching for comfort.
3. **Encourage Acceptance**: Reward your pet with treats or praise.
4. **If Irritation Occurs**: Stop use for 24 hours. If it persists, contact Pawthotics NZ.
5. **Note**: Adjust the schedule based on your pet's needs.

4. HOW TO USE

- **When to Wear**: During active times, including water activities.
- **When to Remove**: During rest or sleep to let skin breathe.
- **Daily Limit**: Up to 14 hours after break-in.

5. FITTING THE BRACE

1. Slide your pet's paw into the paw section (pet can stand or lie down).
2. Drop the hock into the brace making sure the paw stay in place.
3. Secure the bottom strap to hold the paw in place.
4. Fasten remaining straps from bottom to top, adjusting for a snug fit.
5. Check that the brace stays in place. If it slips continuously, contact Pawthotics NZ.

6. CHECKING SKIN AND BRACE

- **Skin**: After each use, check for blisters, redness (lasting over 1 hour), or skin breakdown. Stop use for 24 hours if irritation occurs and contact us if it continues.
- **Brace**: Look for cracks, tears, or worn straps/padding. Contact Pawthotics NZ for replacements.

7. CLEANING AND CARE

- **Cleaning**:
  - Wipe the plastic shell and foam liner with soapy water or antibacterial wipes.
  - Hand-wash straps and pads; air dry completely.
  - Brush hair/debris from hook and loop straps with a wire brush (hook side only).
- **Drying**: Never use heat (e.g., hair dryer). Ensure the brace is dry before reapplying.
- **Water Use**: Waterproof for hydrotherapy but dry thoroughly after use.

8. MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGY

- **Materials**: Polypropylene shell, non-porous polyethylene foam, neoprene padding, Velcro straps.
- **Technology**: Hand-crafted with vacuum forming for a precise fit.

9. FAQS

- **What if the brace doesn't fit?** Adjust straps or contact Pawthotics NZ. We may modify it for you.
- **Is it waterproof?** Yes, but dry straps and pads before reapplying.
- **How long can my pet wear it?** Up to 14 hours daily after a 2-week break-in. Remove during rest.
- **Can my pet use stairs?** Yes, after a few days of adjustment. Supervise early attempts.

10. WARRANTY

- **2 Months**: Free alterations/modifications.
- **1 Year**: Manufacturing defects.
- **60 Days**: Free replacement straps.

11. CONTACT US

- **Email**: PawthoticsNZ@gmail.com
- **Location**: Invercargill, New Zealand

WE WISH YOUR PET A SPEEDY RECOVERY! THANK YOU FOR TRUSTING…

PAWTHOTICSNZ.com