

PET NAME: _____



PAWTHOTICS NZ

Orthotics and Prosthetics for Animals

CUSTOM STIFLE BRACE

CARE HANDOUT



WELCOME TO THE PAWTHOTICS FAMILY

Thank you for choosing the Custom Stifle Brace 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 stifle (knee) joint for injuries, arthritis, or mobility issues.
- **Use:** Ideal for active periods indoors, outdoors, or in water (e.g., hydrotherapy).
- **Features:**
 - Custom-fitted to your pet's leg.
 - Waterproof with non-porous foam padding.
 - Adjustable hook and loop straps with Tamarack hinges for natural movement.
 - Made in Invercargill, New Zealand.

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 pet 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. Apply with your pet standing or lying down.
2. Clip the bottom section above the hock and malleoli (ankle joints) at a 90-degree angle.
3. Secure the bottom strap, pre-loading tension on the neoprene section, then fasten Velcro.
4. Push the lower brace (under the knee) toward the back of the leg; secure the back strap over the calf muscle.
5. Fasten the front strap (under the stifle) firmly to lock the tibia in place.
6. Secure the top strap against the hamstrings, pushing the brace up against the thigh.
7. 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, Tamarack hinges.
- **Technology:** Hand-crafted with vacuum forming and Tamarack hinges for natural joint motion.

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.
- **Lifetime:** Tamarack hinges.
- **60 Days:** Free replacement straps.
- Contact Pawthotics NZ for claims.

11. CONTACT US

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

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



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