



Standard of Practice Tarsus Impressions

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Mon – Thurs 9am – 5pm

GATHER MATERIALS:

- Glad Press'n Seal plastic wrap (must use this for greatest success)
- Cut strip (can substitute ¼" surgical tubing or drip line)
- Hook blade (available at local hardware store)
- Tape
- Bandage scissors
- Fabric measuring tape
- Permanent marker
- Gloves
- Bowl of cold water
- Fiberglass non-flexible casting tape:
 - Recommend 2" for Labrador size; 1.5" for smaller breeds.
 - Do not use larger than 2" except for equine size animals.

GATHER DOCUMENTS & MEDIA:

- Patient Referral Form
- Measurement Form
- Customer Contract
- Media (pictures & videos)
 - Please take media of patient at impression appointment.
 - Hold camera stationary & horizontally (landscape) at same elevation as patient's affected limb.
 - Take 3+ pictures: Front, back and side (affected side facing camera).
 - Take 2+ videos: Have patient walk back and forth past you, videoing both sides of patient.
 - Upload by going to [OrthoPets.Filemail.com](https://www.orthopets.com/filemail).
 - For instructional video on how to take media, go to <https://vimeo.com/261067863>.

EVERY IMPRESSION NOTES:

- **Sedation** – Sedation is not recommended unless required for safety purposes.
- **Do not shave** – Do not shave the fur for non-op cases.
- **Get help** – Get help or gather objects to support patient weight if needed.
- **Alignment of limb** – Align affected limb in a position that you want the device to hold the limb in.
- **Thin impression** – A thin impression is needed in order to replicate the musculoskeletal contours/shape of the affected limb segment. You will use casting tape, but you do not want to make a traditional cast with thick layers. We will use the exterior of impression for imaging.
- **Watch video** – For best success take just a few minutes to watch the video at <https://vimeo.com/21597070>. Follow instructions on other side and contact us with any questions.

Tarsus Impressions (page 2)

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS:

1) Positioning:

- a. Patient is lateral/on their side.
- b. Align limb in desired position/angle.
- c. Ok to align limb for standing position or in a therapeutic alignment.

2) Waterproof barrier – use Glad Press’n Seal wrap (in place of stockingette). Wrap the entire length of limb needed for impression. When in doubt a longer impression is better.

3) Cut strip – Position cut strip with groove facing out from the top of the toes on up the leg towards torso. Continue the cut strip upwards on the cranial/front of the tarsus joint

4) Prep fiberglass casting material – use cold water. Don’t open casting material pouch until you’re ready to use it.

5) Apply fiberglass:

- a. Start with a double wrap just above stifle joint.
- b. Spiral wrap down towards the toes overlapping only ½ of the previous layer.
- c. End by including entire paw (include toenails).
- d. Do NOT wrap back up the limb. We need a thin impression (unlike a cast) of the limb.
- e. Cut off excess fiberglass material while it is wet.

6) Setting the impression:

- a. Hold tarsus joint in alignment you want device to support your patient.
- b. Position paw into normal standing alignment.
- c. Massage the fiberglass material with your hands to achieve the following results:
 - i. Ensure the tape layers bond.
 - ii. Expose the contours and landmarks/anatomy of the limb.

7) Mark the impression – Use a permanent marker to identify landmarks:

- a. Distal end of metatarsal (paw meet rest of limb).
- b. Malleoli/ankle bones.
- c. Fibular head.
- d. Tibial crest (attachment site for patella tendon).
- e. Patient name and ‘Left’ or ‘Right’.

8) Remove impression – starting at the top/proximal edge, use bandage scissors to cut down to cut strip, then use hook blade utility knife and follow the cut strip groove. Remove Press’n Seal.

9) Tape impression back together – Immediately tape the cast back together using any tape available.