

Document 5

Manuscript for Posting Ears After an Ear Crop

This procedure starts after the surgery has healed and there is minimal to no scabbing left. This procedure can last between four weeks to eight months following ear cropping. The tape is placed on the puppy's ear and expected to be left on the ear for 5-7 days per taping. The tape is then removed, usually in the morning and then replaced at the end of the day and left on for another 5-7 days. The exception for the 5-7 days is if the bandage gets wet or if the puppy damages the integrity of the post. It is best to keep the puppy separated from the other puppies or from playing rough while the posts are in the puppy's ears to prevent the need of retaping more frequently. Cones, or Elizabethan Collars, are usually not necessary but in some cases may help prevent the puppy from getting the posts out. Teaching the puppy obedience and the word "no" will keep the puppy from acting up and forming bad behaviors in an effort to remove the posts prematurely. Some typical bad behaviors puppies often will do include rubbing their head into the grass or onto the ground, scratching their ears with their back feet or front feet, shaking their head etc. This procedure (posting) is not painful and often needs to be repeated for the first 6-8 weeks, once weekly, following the surgical procedure.

To get started with this procedure, you will need ½ inch backer rod, 1 inch Johnson Zonas Porous tape, and a wooden tongue depressor or popsicle sticks. The first few tapings will likely require two people, but then should be able to be completed by a single person. To start the procedure, you will need to rip 10-12 pieces of the 1 inch Johnson Porous tape into 5 inch strips and place them on a surface easily accessible. Next you will need to roughly measure the length of the ear from the tip all the way to the bottom of the bell (the lowest suture on the side of the face), by holding the backer rod end at the tip of the ear while stretching the ear tip upwards, and follow the rod along the outside edge of the ear all the way down to the lowest part of the suture scar on the side of the face below the ear hole. This is very important that the post is cut long, and never too short. Using the 1 inch roll of tape, wrap the tape around the backer rod from the top to the bottom with the sticky side out. Hold the post against the ear to verify again that the post is the correct length.

Side note: As the puppy grows, the length and diameter of the rod will increase. Larger, thicker backer rod of 5/8s inch diameter will be needed for 5 plus month old puppies, or young Great danes.

Now, have your holder hold the puppy firmly with an arm over the body and a hand under the chin, not to obstruct breathing, or squeezing too tightly to make the puppy uncomfortable. The person taping should have the 10-12 5 inch pieces of tape ready and available as they place the post into the ear. Place the post into the ear and gently twist the post deep into the bell, while gently pulling upwards on the tip of the ear. If the post is not placed deep enough into the bell, the post will appear to be too long when you tape it into place, and the puppy will dislodge the post prematurely causing an implant failure and forcing a need for repeat taping. Hold the post

into the ear while placing the first piece of tape around the ear. It is important to remember not to wrap the tape too tightly, as you can form a tourniquet and lose blood circulation to the tip of the ear. The piece of tape should be wrapped around the ear loosely and the excessive tape should be pinched off. The tape should be started on the medial surface of the ear and the tape should be brought around towards the eye, then laterally towards the person taping, then wrapped around the ear and taped onto the tape itself. Another piece of tape should be ready, and overlap the previous piece of tape by approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ - $\frac{1}{4}$. This should be continued all the way up the ear, and end by covering the entire ear, including the very base. Then, the ear should be elevated upwards, and a final piece of tape should be placed around the bell. This piece of tape should also overlap the bottom of the lowest piece of tape placed. Additional pieces of tape can be added here to strengthen the bell in situations where you are having a difficult time getting the bell to stand. This process should be repeated on the other ear the exact same way. Make sure you get the post deep enough into the bell of the ear.

Ears must stand straight and parallel to each other. Measure the approximate distance between the ears, from the center of the inside of each ear while stretching them upward and parallel. Measure and cut a small piece of the tongue depressor and place it in the middle of a 10 inch strip of tape. Use this piece of tape and piece of tongue depressor to form a bridge to stabilize the ears into a parallel position as demonstrated.

