

INSTRUCTIONS ON CARE OF EARS FOLLOWING CROPPING

1. Sutures will probably be removed from the edge of the ear about 8-10 days after surgery. The ears are usually retaped 2-3 days after suture removal (check with vet to know exactly what schedule they prefer). During this time the puppy should be separated from other dogs, if possible, to prevent them from licking the exposed sutures thus delaying healing and causing excessive scar tissue formation which in many instances will prevent the ears from standing properly.
2. During the interval between suture removal and the time re-taping is scheduled, massage the healing edges of the ear twice daily using Vaseline as a lubricant. Employ a stretching motion as you massage to help prevent scarring as healing progresses. DO NOT use Vaseline on the day of re-taping or the tape will not stick to the ear. The ears must be kept CLEAN and DRY both before and after re-taping. If they get wet after re-taping remove the tape IMMEDIATELY and either take the dog to the vet for re-taping or if you are sure you know how to properly do so, re-tape the ears yourself (see taping instructions below). If you re-tape yourself, DO NOT cover the exposed sutures at the base of the ear.
3. Avoid playing with the puppy excessively while he is learning to perk the ears up. If you play excessively, your puppy will instinctively pull the ears down. Avoid "rough-housing". Try to get your puppy to pick its ears up as often as possible by making unusual noises or blowing a whistle to get his/her attention.

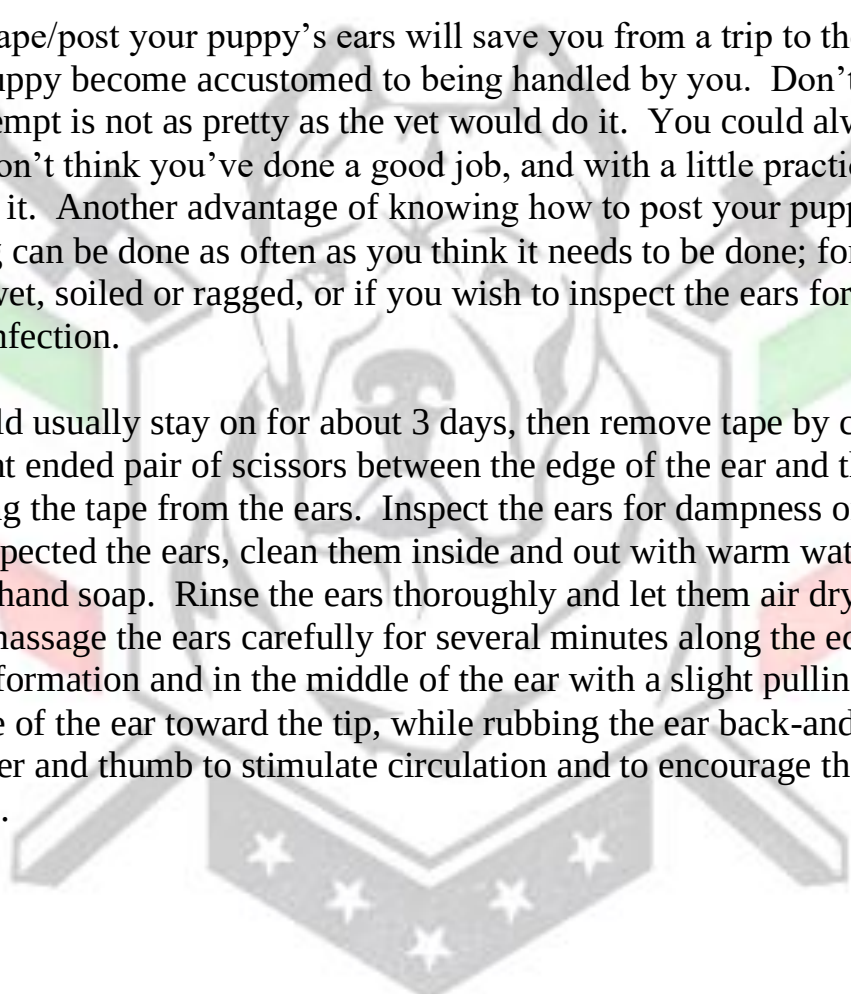
4. On rare occasions a puppy will develop a soft, pliable, thick cartilage which does not allow the ear to stand, therefore the ears will never stand properly.
5. Some puppies simply are not interested in what is going on around them and will not try to perk their ears. If your puppy displays this behavior, use a silent dog whistle and any other means possible to encourage some interest that stimulates the ears to perk up.
6. Ears which are continuously wet after taping are very slow to heal and stand; thereby allowing the cartilage to lose its rigidity and develop scar tissue formation. It is extremely important to keep the ears CLEAN and DRY.
7. If your puppy is hyperactive and insists on scratching its ears after the first week following the surgery, it is recommended that you begin with ½ grain ASPIRIN up to one full 5 grain tablet every 4-6 hours. Oftentimes, the aspirin will reduce inflammation and alleviate the itching associated with the healing process, sutures, and bandages. **WARNING: NEVER ADMINISTER ACETAMINOPHEN (e.g. Tylenol etc.) AS IT IS EXTREMELY TOXIC TO ALL DOGS!**
8. If you work with your puppy and your puppy works with you, the ears should stand up right within several weeks to 1 or 2 months with minimal amount of discomfort to you or to the puppy.
9. Baby socks taped over the rear paws, or hand towel rolled like a donut and pinned around the neck or cone/donut (inflatable cones are available for pets comfort). These methods will help prevent the puppy from scratching at its ears and pulling out the sutures or removing taping.

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RE-TAPING YOUR PUPPY'S EARS AT HOME

Learning to tape/post your puppy's ears will save you from a trip to the vet. It also helps your puppy become accustomed to being handled by you. Don't worry if your first attempt is not as pretty as the vet would do it. You could always start over if you don't think you've done a good job, and with a little practice you'll get quite good at it. Another advantage of knowing how to post your puppy's ears is that re-taping can be done as often as you think it needs to be done; for example, if the tap gets wet, soiled or ragged, or if you wish to inspect the ears for healing progress or infection.

Posting should usually stay on for about 3 days, then remove tape by carefully sliding a blunt ended pair of scissors between the edge of the ear and the tape, slowly peeling the tape from the ears. Inspect the ears for dampness or infection. After you inspected the ears, clean them inside and out with warm water and antibacterial hand soap. Rinse the ears thoroughly and let them air dry. FINALLY, massage the ears carefully for several minutes along the edges to prevent scar formation and in the middle of the ear with a slight pulling motion from the base of the ear toward the tip, while rubbing the ear back-and-forth between finger and thumb to stimulate circulation and to encourage the cartilage to grow straight.

The logo for Battalion Cane Corso is a large, faint watermark in the background. It features a central shield with a stylized dog's head inside. The shield is flanked by two crossed swords. Below the shield is a banner with the text "BATTALION" in large, bold, serif capital letters, and "CANE CORSO" in smaller, bold, serif capital letters below it.

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