



## **Guidelines for the repair of kennel beds and similar items with stretch PU, welded covers**

***PLEASE READ IN FULL BEFORE COMMENCING ANY REPAIR WORK***

The repair kit comprises

- Small brush for application of adhesive
- Three A4 sheets of black PU
- Three sheets black PU, each with two pre-formed corners
- Tube of appropriate adhesive
- Small bottle of acetone for cleaning

The fabrics you are working with:

The Kennel Beds are covered with a supported, stretch PU fabric. The stretch is achieved by presence of a backing nylon mesh. The same material cannot be used to repair the cover of beds as the backing mesh will not adhere well to the cover and will wick moisture under the patch.

The black PU fabric provided in the repair kit is the same material, but without the backing mesh, hence it does not stretch. This creates a difference in the amount of movement between the cover and the patch which will put the repair under strain and potentially cause it to fail. For this reason, patches should be as small as is practicable.

If an area has several small holes eg due to teeth punctures, you will probably want to put a single patch over them. However, we strongly advise that a single piece of black PU patch should not be larger than A6 (approx. 15 x 10cm), and preferably smaller.

The patching procedure

*Preparation* - Give yourself plenty of working area which is well ventilated and away from patients as the adhesive has a strong aroma. When applying adhesive to the patch you have prepared, protect other surfaces with which the adhesive may come into contact.

The wearing of gloves is not vital since the glue is readily removed once dry and the gloves may adhere to the working surface accidentally.

If the foam cushion has been damaged, you may find it necessary to pad out the hole with wadding so that there is no dip in the support behind the repair patch. However, this may require the use of spray carpet adhesive to keep the wadding in place, if it is large.

If the cover fabric has been compromised, but there is still a 'flap', this should form part of the patch, ie clean it and cover as much of the hole with the original fabric as possible, behind the

patch fabric. Patch fabric should not be glued directly onto the foam as that will prevent the foam from moving and the stress between foam and patch may cause the repair to fail.

To avoid gluing the patch to the foam, you may have to undertake a two stage repair. First, glue a patch to the hole where the cover fabric is missing, but just put adhesive on the cover round the margins of the hole and the margins of the patch and allow to dry – see below *Patch Application*. The second stage is to apply a second larger patch that covers the whole of the first patch and adheres to the cover fabric beyond the edges of the first patch. This will only be required for larger holes – ie greater than about 7cm across

Cut your patches to the required size. Corners should be rounded to reduce the likelihood of their being lifted and to make it easier to ensure they are completely covered in adhesive.

Clean both the patch and the surface to receive the patch with the acetone applied with cotton wool and allow to dry completely – this should only take a couple of minutes. It is worth cleaning an area larger than the patch to make sure of a good adhesion.

*Patch application* – Use the brush provided to apply a thin layer of adhesive to both the area to be repaired and the patch (note the patch will curl – see warnings). Ensure there is glue right to the edge of the patch. Allow to dry for 10 minutes – the patch will flatten again.

Place the patch glue side down on the site to be repaired and hold in place pressing hard for a couple of minutes.

Excess adhesive can be wiped off surfaces using acetone so it does not matter if you get some on the outer face of the patch or areas of the cover beyond that which the patch will cover. If it has dried before it has been wiped off, it will not remain sticky.

Clean the brush by squeezing any excess glue from the bristles and wipe with acetone using a paper towel or similar after use to prevent it from going hard. Anything which has acetone on it should be allowed to dry fully before it is disposed of.

*Patching corners* – follow the same basic procedures as for flat patches. Each sheet has two corners which should be separated by cutting carefully between. The long edges of corner patches should be cut in a curve.

## **WARNINGS**

The adhesive has a strong aroma so use in a well ventilated room, preferably away from patients.

When adhesive is first applied to the patch material, the patch will curl, making it tricky to apply the adhesive evenly and to the edge of the patch.

Try to keep patches as small as is practical to handle. Large patches are more likely to fail than multiple small ones.

You should avoid gluing the patch material to the foam core of the bed as the subsequent movement of the foam when an animal lies on it is likely to cause the repair to fail.

## **NOTE**

In this repair kit, the acetone is provided in the form of nail polish remover as only small quantities are required and this can be sent by courier without issue.

***Queries should be directed to***

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