

Comfortable and effective casting – Helsinki Veterinary Teaching Hospital uses Woodcast for small animals



The Veterinary Teaching Hospital is a top-level unit of veterinary care in Finland. It's part of the [Faculty of Veterinary Medicine](#) at the University of Helsinki, serving as the teaching hospital for students of veterinary medicine. The hospital also serves as a postgraduate professional education institute for specialising veterinarians and as a training institute for nurses training as veterinary nurses.

From synthetic to natural materials

The Helsinki Veterinary Teaching Hospital uses Woodcast in the Emergency, Orthopaedic and Neurological departments. Specialist in Small Animal Diseases **Pauli Keränen**, DVM, PhD, tells that transitioning to Woodcast was natural.

- We have been using Woodcast for several years. We need splints in many sizes for different animals and applications, and Woodcast has been working well for that.

Before Woodcast, the hospital used synthetic and fiberglass splints. They also used pre-shaped plastic splints but found them to cause cast sores.

- It's important that the splints are moldable, so that pressure points do not form.

Comfort and fit are extremely important

When training new veterinarians, Dr. Keränen highlights the importance of comfort and fit.

- A dog cannot easily tell if the cast is chafing. If you see any signs of discomfort like gnawing, it's too late.

An ill-fitting cast can cause expensive and hard-to-treat complications.

- Conditions like eczema are hard to treat and require frequent replacement of the cast.

Dr. Keränen likes that he can re-heat and re-shape Woodcast to achieve a good fit. He has a nice tip for splinting a dog's back leg:

- The splint can cause pressure on the calcaneus. Heat the splint with a hairdryer and shape with your fingers to make more room around the prominence.