



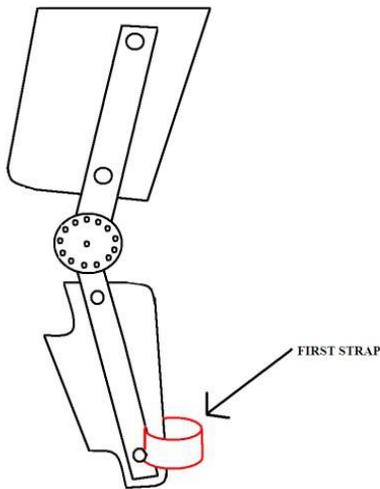
ANIMAL ORTHO CARE (AOC)

STIFLE BRACE FITTING INSTRUCTIONS

Thank you for your purchase! Please take the time to inspect your “stifle brace”. You will notice that there is a “**range of motion (ROM) joint**” or “**Tamarack rubber joint**” located on the brace, where the knee joint of your dog is located. The joint type is dependent on the size of your dog. The most important thing is to try to line up the anatomical and mechanical joints, so that when the brace is on snugly, your dog’s knee joint axis and ROM joint axis on the brace are aligned. The ROM joint comes with an Allen wrench that allows you to adjust the amount of range the knee moves. Always allow full ROM, unless you are using this device post-surgically. Please call Animal Ortho Care for instructions if this is the case. The set screws should be set so you do not have to adjust them.

Your brace may or may not come with a **secondary suspension system** located below the hock (ankle joint). This is decided by the Animal Ortho Care team at the time of fabrication depending on the anatomy of your pet. This section can be completely removed if your pet continues to knuckle over after the initial break-in period of two weeks. Two screws located on the brace can be removed to free this section from the brace. Note, it is not uncommon for your pet to place his foot incorrectly (knuckle) for the first few days.

Step 1- Make sure that you loosen all straps (including the front tibial strap) before donning the brace. Also, make sure that there are pads on each of these straps. Note. These pads can be removed completely for cleaning and/or for adjustment purposes. The “shell” of the brace will go on the front of your pets’ leg.



Step 2- Once you have loosened straps and adjusted pads, place the shell on the front of the leg and tighten the **FIRST** strap just above the “hock” (the hock is the joint below the knee). This is the main point of suspension for the brace.

Step 3- If there is a lower strap (secondary suspension system), tighten this strap next. If not, continue to **tighten the straps UP the back of the leg** (most models will not have/need this section).

Step 4- Once you have snugly fastened all the straps on the back of the brace; tighten the front (tibial) strap at the front of the brace, just below the knee. Once the front strap is tightened correctly, it can be left fastened and only the three back straps have to be tightened. Make sure that the lower shell is laying flat against the shin. If it is not, loosen the front strap and make the middle rear strap tighter. This will pull the shell towards the leg.

At this point, all straps should be snug and the knee joint of your pet and brace are aligned. It may take a few tries before you get it right, but make sure to follow these steps in order and loosen all straps before fitting again except for front strap once set correctly). If the alignment is NOT correct, you can make the brace longer or shorter (depending on model) with the screws located on the sides of the brace. By loosening these screws, you will be allowed to slide the sections of the brace up and down about the joint. Please call if further instructions are needed.

Your pet may “knuckle over” the first week of wearing the device, especially if the lower suspension system is present. This is normal at first, but SHOULD go away. If it does not, please call us for further directions or remove the bottom section and try walking again.

The brace can be worn in water, but use caution and make sure not to leave a wet brace on your pet. The foam is non-porous and does not trap water, but the straps and strap pads do take time to dry. Make sure that brace is completely dry before re-fitting.