

Owner Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Pet Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle: Left / Right

● = Anatomical Joint Center

## 1) Secure straps

- Begin with **Bottom** strap. Hold brace against limb and pull strap tight.
  - Make sure this strap is tight. This strap creates the device suspension mechanism.
- Secure **Middle Back** strap by holding brace against limb and pull strap tight.
- Hold the upper portion of the brace against the front of the thigh. While holding the brace, pull **Top Back** strap snug. Thigh muscles need room to expand and contract during locomotion.
- Last, secure the **Front Middle** strap very tight. This strap completes the support mechanism.

## 2) Check fit when pet is standing

- Observe the bottom elastic strap.
  - Is the strap just above and resting on the hock?
- Check strap tightness by slipping a finger under the top and middle straps.
  - You need to feel resistance while doing this. Tighten straps if it feels loose.
- Check in the groin area.
  - There should be clearance between the top edge of brace and the groin.

## 3) Initial gait pattern

- It is common for toes to hit the ground during “Swing through”.
  - Your pet will quickly learn to avoid this while advancing the limb.
- The Stifle brace restricts free motion of the stifle joint. This will take time for your pet to establish a smooth gait pattern.

## 4) Adjustments\*\*\* Circle any of the following\*\*\*

- Inspect skin condition for any irritation
  - On Hock, both inside and outside
  - Groin area
- Is the brace too high on the femur?
  - Touching the groin?
- Is the brace too long at the Hock joint?
  - Preventing the Hock from flexing?
- Is device too tight and difficult to apply?
- Is device loose and difficult to tighten?

\*\*\* Use pen, tape, marker, or sticker to indicate the location(s) on device needing adjustments: (Please send all pictures to [orthopets@yahoo.com](mailto:orthopets@yahoo.com) )

- Area of irritation
- Trimming if too long
- Gapping of device
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

