



## Veterinarian FAQs

### **Do they work? How is bracing better than “doing nothing”, for pet and client?**

Hero Stifle Braces limit cranial drawer. With a brace, dogs can get out of their crates and resume normal daily activity. Most dogs' stifles are stable in about 6 months. Many veterinarians report braced dogs seem to have less pain.

### **What is the success rate of bracing?**

86% of pet owners in a recent study were satisfied with bracing.\* Hero's experience is similar. Complete failures are uncommon, less than 10%.

Managing pet owners' expectations is critical for success. They need to take a few minutes each day to apply the brace and be prepared to work with their dog for a few days during the adjustment period.

### **What is the likelihood of rubbing or fit issues?**

**85% of braces fit well** from the start. Rubbing is a sign that a brace isn't fitting right. Fit adjustments are free with Hero Braces.

### **How long does it take pets to get used to their brace?**

About half of all patients walk in the brace right away. The rest take 2 days to 2 weeks to adjust to it.

### **How long do dogs need to wear the brace?**

For CrCL injuries, about 6 months, with regular daily use. Just during heavy exercise thereafter. For other conditions, lifetime use may be indicated. Braces can be worn all day and should be removed at night.

### **What is the likelihood my client will have additional costs, such as fit adjustments or rehabilitation?**

Hero Braces have a fit guarantee, with unlimited adjustments in the first year if needed to achieve functional fit.

Many dogs do great with just a brace, however, rehabilitation always improves bracing results.

### **What is the process for bracing?**

Braces are custom fit to each pet, accomplished with an impression of the leg at your clinic. Hero provides all materials (including cutting tool) and simple training videos online.

Plan on 3 appointments: casting (30 minutes), fitting (30 minutes, 3 weeks later), and recheck (15 minutes, 1 to 2 weeks later).

### **Who else is bracing?**

The head of rehabilitation services for the VCA chain, Dr. Carrie Adrian, has been using Hero Braces for almost 10 years. Check out her comments on bracing on our website, Successful Veterinarians page. Hundreds of veterinarians across the country are using Hero braces to help patients play sooner.

\* Hart J, May K, et al. Comparison of owner satisfaction between stifle joint orthoses and tibial plateau leveling osteotomy for the management of cranial cruciate ligament disease in dogs, JAVMA (2016) 249:391-8