



USER MANUAL

PET PARENT GUIDE



ⓘ This must be read and understood completely before using this WIMBA medical device.

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WE ARE INVITING YOU TO

JOIN THE FACEBOOK GROUP

- ✓ **Learn:** Get insights on caring for pet with WIMBA orthotics.
- ✓ **Connect:** Join a community of pet parents with similar experiences.
- ✓ **Share:** Exchange photos, stories, and advice.

SCAN ME



Scan the QR code to join the WIMBA Community!

01

WELCOME TO YOUR WIMBA DEVICE

How to use this guide?

Welcome to the WIMBA Pet Parent Guide! It is critical that you read and understand this booklet before using the WIMBA medical device you purchased for your pet. Whether you just got back from attending the first fitting at your veterinarian/physiotherapist or are already adjusting to life with the device at home, this guide provides valuable insights and instructions to ensure a smooth and successful experience for both you and your pet.

This device is to support your pet, and we are excited to get you and your fur friend off on the right paw! First we need to make sure you understand some important safety considerations as well as how to properly care for the WIMBA orthotic, so it can do its job well for as long as possible.

Proper care and maintenance of the WIMBA orthotic is the only way such an innovative and specialized device can continue to provide the needed support to your pet.

First fitting at your vet/physio

The first fitting of the orthosis is a crucial step in ensuring its effectiveness and comfort for your pet. By actively participating in the fitting process and following the guidance provided here, you can contribute to a successful outcome for your pet.



IMPORTANT

If you have questions, ask your WIMBA Provider before using



Introducing your pet to a custom medical device involves following some basic rules to ensure their comfort, safety, and the effectiveness of the treatment. An initial break in period is needed before the device can be worn full time (8-10 hours). Never leave the device on your pet for more than 10 hours at a time, and always monitor while in use. With any custom medical device, adjustments such as tightness, token changes by Provider, and adjustments to daily routines with your pet, may be needed. Following this break in guide, will help confirm that your pet's device is fitting well while minimizing risk of skin irritation.

Introducing Your Dog to the Device

The introduction phase is crucial for helping your pet become accustomed to the device. Positive reinforcement techniques, such as offering treats or toys, can help create a positive association with the device. Take your time during this phase to ensure your pet feels comfortable and relaxed. This initial break in period allows us to check the fit and function of the new device while minimizing the risk of skin breakdown or irritation.

Skin Safety

Regularly check your pet's skin for any signs of redness, irritation, or pressure sores. Ensure that the device fits properly and doesn't cause excessive pressure or rubbing on the skin. It is important to check the skin every time when putting on the orthosis, during use, after you remove the device, and at least once later in the day. If you notice any issues, take photos and reach out to the provider who prescribed this device for further guidance.

Wearing Schedule

It's essential to follow a gradual wearing schedule to allow your pet's body to adjust to the device. During the first week, the goal is to have your pet wearing the device for up to 3-4 short sessions per day while engaged in a positive and safe activity like slow leash walking or guided rehabilitation exercises prescribed by your veterinarian or rehabilitation therapist. Monitor your pet for any signs of discomfort or irritation during these sessions. During the first week of use, the device should be worn for an increasing period of time for each session. It is recommended to start with just 15 minutes, then increase the wearing time every two days by fifteen minutes. The time frame will vary depending on the situation and the dog's behavior.

Recommended Wear Schedule Example:

DAY	TIME	FREQUENCY
1	15 Minutes	Up to 3-4 times
2	15 Minutes	Up to 3-4 times
3	30 Minutes	Up to 3-4 times
4	30 Minutes	Up to 3-4 times
5	45 Minutes	Up to 3-4 times

For certain conditions, like tendon treatment or post surgical support, longer initial wear may be indicated. **Your WIMBA Provider will guide the wear schedule.** Provide air breaks and check for skin safety every 4-6 hours as possible for longer wear time needs.

PLEASE NOTE

This is a recommended guide for the break in wear schedule, however, every animal's case is unique. **Always follow the direction of your WIMBA Provider for your pet's individual treatment plan and wear schedule.**

With any custom-made device, there is a possibility some parts may need replacement after the warranty period. If there is a component of the device that becomes damaged or in question, please reach out to your WIMBA Provider to discuss if a replacement of a part or all of the device is needed.

The cost of the replacement component depends on the part needing replaced and delivery time will vary depending on the situation.

Orthotic Components

Understanding the components of your pet's device is important for proper use and maintenance. From straps and inserts/cushions to hinges and tokens, each part plays a vital role in providing support and comfort.

- **Axis:** part of the **carpal & tarsal** device **frame** that are positioned on the medial (inner) and lateral (outer) sides of the limb.
- **Hinges:** the axis is connected to hinges, which should be in line with the center of the joint, and is also where the tokens are attached.
- **Straps:** are adjustable, allowing for ease of placement on the animal's limb as well as a better overall fit.
- **Tokens:** placed in the center of the hinge, and used to control the range of motion in the joint. Each color allows for a different range of motion.

◦ **Tokens for Carpal & Tarsal:**

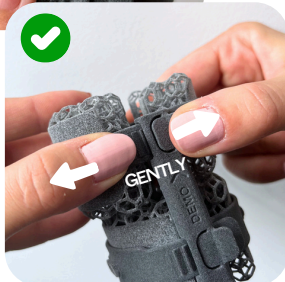
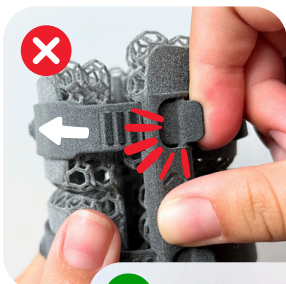


IMPORTANT:

WIMBA Tokens are to be only changed by or through direction of your WIMBA Provider.

CAUTION:

Excessive pressure on snaps will cause breakage.

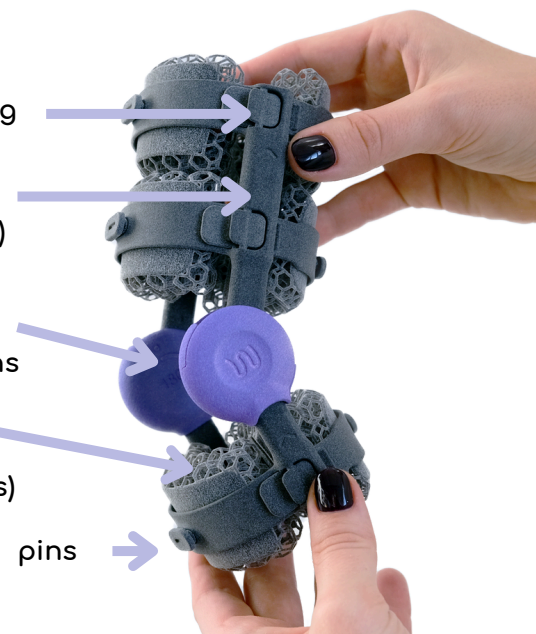


TARSAL ORTHOSIS

snap-fastening straps
axis
(part of frame)

hinges
(where tokens connect)
inserts
(aka cushions)

pins



CARPAL ORTHOSIS

IMPORTANT:

All WIMBA orthotics and prosthetics are considered medical devices, prescribed by licensed clinicians. Failure to follow directions could result in injury to the animal, device damage or need for device replacement. Do not continue using a damaged device. Notify your WIMBA Provider immediately.

Orthotic Components:

- **Inserts (cushions):** sponge-like spacer cushions that make up the inserts, which allow the orthosis to be placed securely and comfortably to the animal's limb.
- **Pins:** these help secure the inserts (cushions) to the frame- comes with spare mounting pins in case they are lost*.

Caring for your pet's device is essential for maintaining its effectiveness and longevity. From cleaning and storage to monitoring for signs of wear and tear, proper maintenance ensures that the device continues to provide the support needed day after day.

See the Do's and Don't chart below for practical guidelines for keeping your pet's orthotic in top condition:

*Mini version of the product does not include mounting pins to avoid skin irritation. Tarsal tendon section does not have pin attachment for safety. **Do not use pins on single layer inserts (cushions).**

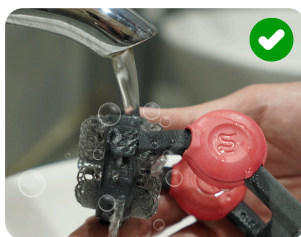


IMPORTANT:

Keep the small parts of this device stored in a safe place **away from children & pets at ALL TIMES**

Cleaning DO's

- ✓ Clean the orthosis after contact with sand, soil, mud, grass, leaves, etc.
- ✓ Allow the orthosis to air dry.
- ✓ Monitor your dog's behavior and condition while wearing the orthosis - check for behavioural and physical signs of discomfort.
- ✓ Hand-clean the orthosis with lukewarm water and delicate soap.



Cleaning DON'Ts

- ✗ Don't allow the dog to wear dirty orthosis as it can lead to skin irritations or the growth of fungi and bacteria.
- ✗ Don't use strong chemicals or put the orthosis in the washing machine.
- ✗ Don't use dryers as they can alter the structural integrity of the orthosis.
- ✗ Don't modify the structure of the orthosis.
- ✗ Don't leave device in direct sunlight.
- ✗ **Don't leave your dog unattended with the orthosis on** - there's a high risk of biting on the orthosis, swallowing small objects, & other hazards.

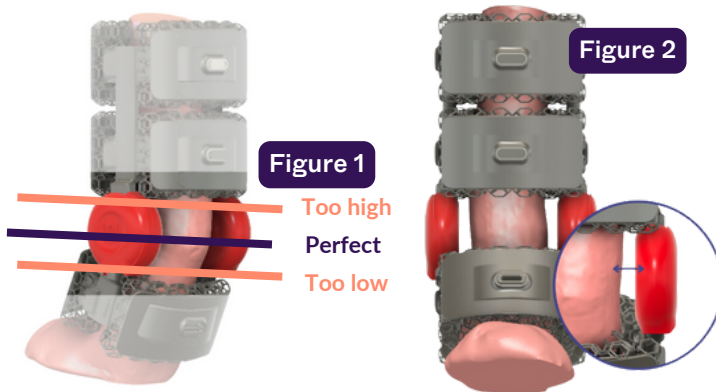


Before placing device on your dog:

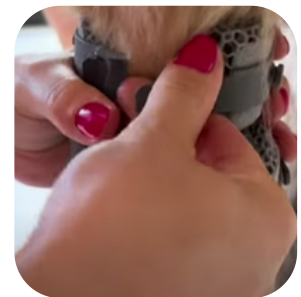
- Check that all device components are clean and not damaged
- Open all straps and locate labels inside axis to be sure placed on correct limb (**FL= Front Left, FR= Front Right**)
- Check companion for anxiety level

**Fitting Videos****Check the following to be sure of proper fit:**

- The brace is in the correct position on the animal's limb, not too high, too low, not rotated internally or externally, and tokens are directly in line with the joint (**See Figure 1**)
- It stays in the correct place during the animal's gait, without twisting or sliding down
- The cushions (inserts) are not overly tight and does not compress excessively on the dog's limb
- No hard elements of the brace (Tokens, Brace Frame) contact the animal's limb during any phase of the gait (**See Figure 2**)



Have dog in comfortable position for donning & check limb is dry/clean
Standing or sitting is acceptable



Place brace over limb correctly → fastening straps facing away from the dog, and hinges on Left & Right sides of the limb



Check for paw placement including dewclaw, pads, and hair → then insert the straps into the clip hole starting at the paw and working up the leg



Lift paw and bend to ensure tokens are directly in line with the wrist joint and there is no friction between the token & wrist

IMPORTANT:
The orthosis can be put on in a few different ways. Reach out to your WIMBA Provider for assistance.

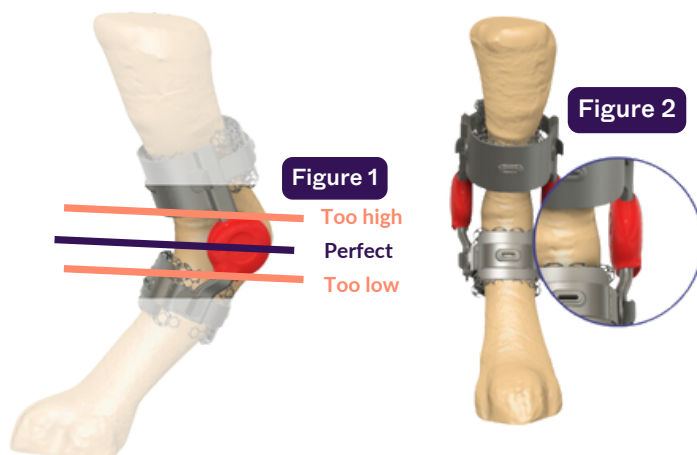
DO's	DON'Ts
✓ Take the orthosis off periodically and stick to the wear schedule.	✗ Don't leave the orthosis on 24/7.
✓ Remove the orthosis in case of swellings, skin irritations, pressure sores, wounds, etc.	✗ Don't put the orthosis on wounded skin.
✓ When fitting for the first time, ensure that none of the hard parts put pressure on the animal, it does not twist during use, or fall off.	✗ Don't put the orthosis directly onto the skin if the fur is unevenly shaved, the paw is irritated, or scratched.

Before placing device on your dog:

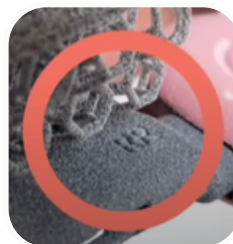
- Check that all device components are clean and not damaged
- Open straps and locate labels inside axis to be sure placed on correct limb (**RL= Rear Left, RR= Rear Right**)
- Check companion for anxiety level

Check the following to be sure of proper fit:

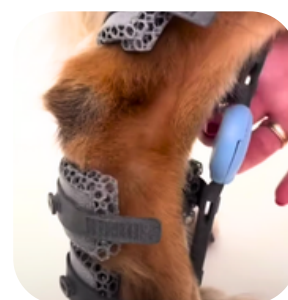
- The brace is in the correct position on the animal's limb, not too high, too low, not rotated internally or externally, and tokens are directly in line with the joint (**See Figure 1**)
- It stays in the correct place during the animal's gait, without twisting or sliding down
- The cushions (inserts) are not overly tight and does not compress excessively on the dog's limb
- No hard elements of the brace (Tokens, Brace Frame) contact the animal's limb during any phase of the gait (**See Figure 2**)



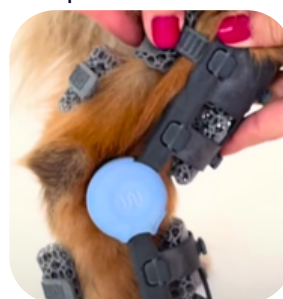
Fitting Videos



Have dog in comfortable position & check limb is dry/clean. Place brace over limb correctly. Standing or sitting is acceptable



Check for paw placement including pads, hair, and dewclaw (if present)



Fasten the straps by sliding into corresponding latch. Note! It is important to ensure even tightening on both sides to avoid point loading (same # clicks)



Lift paw and bend to ensure tokens are directly in line with the ankle joint and there is no friction between the token & ankle

IMPORTANT:
The orthosis can be put on in a few different ways. Reach out to your WIMBA Provider for assistance.

DO's	DON'Ts
✓ Take the orthosis off periodically and stick to the wear schedule.	✗ Don't leave the orthosis on 24/7.
✓ Remove the orthosis in case of swellings, skin irritations, pressure sores, wounds, etc.	✗ Don't put the orthosis on wounded skin.
✓ When fitting for the first time, ensure that none of the hard parts put pressure on the animal, it does not twist during use, or fall off.	✗ Don't put the orthosis directly onto the skin if the fur is unevenly shaved, the paw is irritated, or scratched.

There are times where our companions may get the device extra dirty, and it is important to understand the individual components so that you can properly remove them for deep cleaning then replace them correctly. Take care to use lukewarm water and no harsh chemicals as well as only soft cleaning sponge or brush if needed.

To exchange the inserts (cushions):

- Start with the orthotic unfastened
- Twist and pull mounting pins out of the cushion/inserts and firmly pull on the insert to remove it from the orthosis
- Clip the cleaned cushion/inserts into the designated places
- From the outside, insert the mounting pin into the designated spot, then press the pin and twist it



To clean & replace the tokens:

Look for dot markings on the inner axes of the orthosis and the tokens.

Fasten the tokens according to the markings:

- **1 dot** on the orthosis should align with the token that has one dot
- **2 dots** on the orthosis should match two dots on the token



IMPORTANT:

Do not change out tokens for a different color unless specifically directed by your WIMBA Provider. This may alter the treatment plan!

IMPORTANT

Keep the small parts of this device stored in a safe place away from children & pets at ALL TIMES.

IMPORTANT:

Pins are preventing inserts from falling off. It is important **NOT** to use pins when using single layer cushions or on the achilles (ankle) tendon (refers to the tarsal orthotic only).



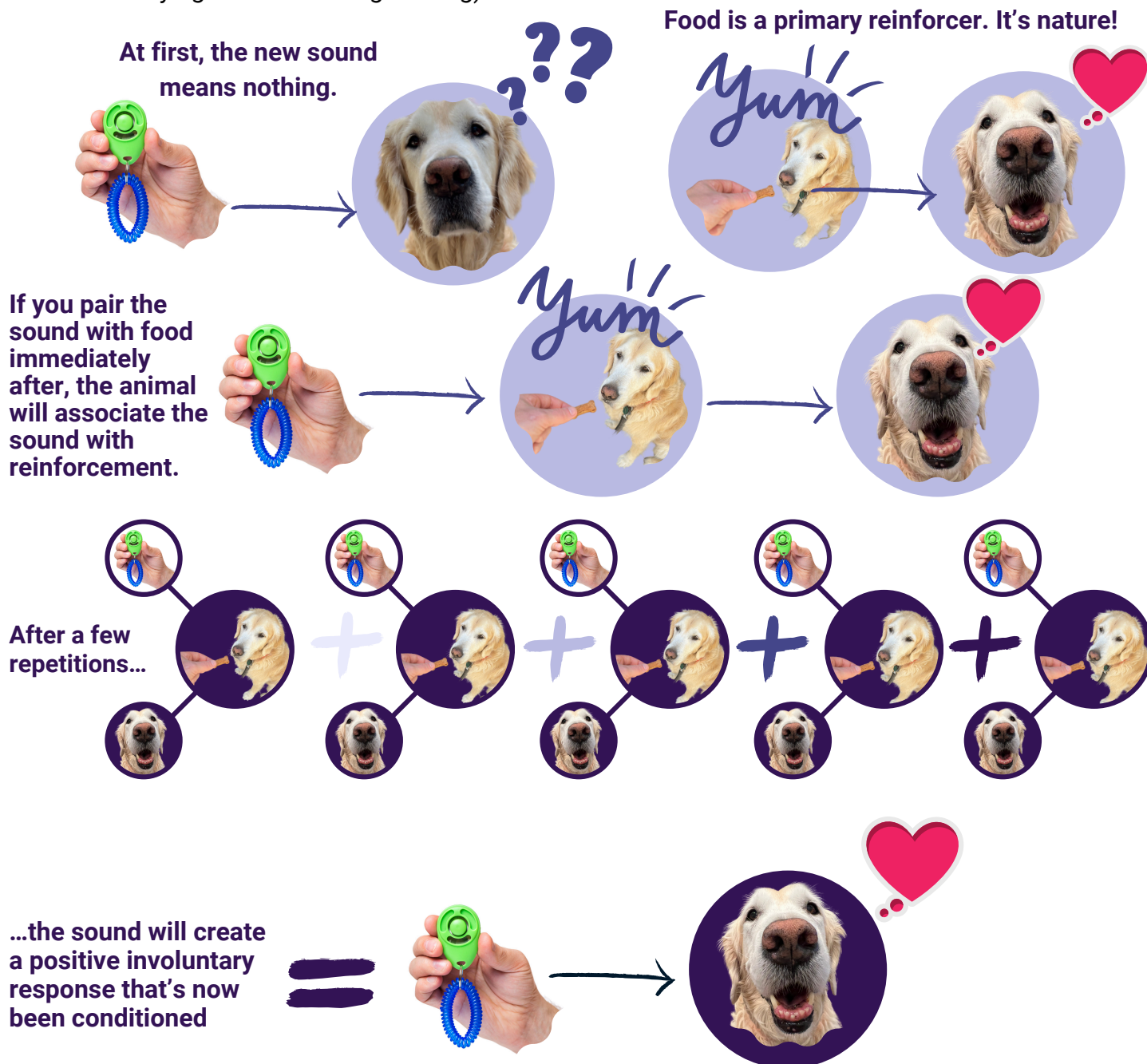
TIP:

Hand-clean the orthosis with lukewarm water and simple dish soap.



This is how you communicate more clearly with your pet while training and can use it to help them have a positive association with something. It can be a communication tool to mark and reward the exact moment they did a behavior you would like to see again (like taking a step in their WIMBA brace or staying still for donning/doffing).

You can use a clicker or a one word syllable like "Yes" or "Thanks" said in the same tone each time. This is not the same as praise like "good boy/girl" that is a type of reinforcement, and you can use it in that way.



Now your communication tool is ready!

**WIMBA is here to help**

If you have questions about your pet's WIMBA device, reach out to your provider. We're here to support you every step of the way.

Conclusion

We hope this guide helps you care for your pet's orthotics. Remember, these devices are just one part of your pet's treatment plan. Work closely with your vet to ensure the best outcome. Thank you for trusting WIMBA—we're proud to be part of your pet's journey to better mobility and health.



Log into your **Knowledge Base** as a Pet Parent and learn as WIMBA continues to share information about behavioral integration support and more!

knowledge.wimba.vet/pet-parents

Join the WIMBA community on the **Facebook Group** to connect with other pet parents and share your experiences.

facebook.com/groups/wimbapets

Follow us for the latest updates! Share your pictures! Don't forget to **tag @WIMBA.vet!**

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For further information or assistance, please contact your Provider.

TIP:

Follow up veterinary/rehabilitation appointments are recommended to ensure the highest level of pain free function.

Having Trouble?

For any questions, concerns, or clarification- please reach out to your WIMBA Provider who you ordered the device through.

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