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(54) **ANIMAL SURGERY PROTECTIVE SLEEVE**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Related U.S. Application Data

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A pet protection system includes a leg portion having a first end having a first cross-section having a flexible opening to insert a pet foot therethrough; an angled portion coupled to the first end and having a second cross-section greater than the first cross-section; and a second end coupled to the angled portion, wherein the second end has a third cross-section greater than the second cross-section; and a body portion coupled to the leg portion, the body portion forming a loop that fits securely on a body of the pet.

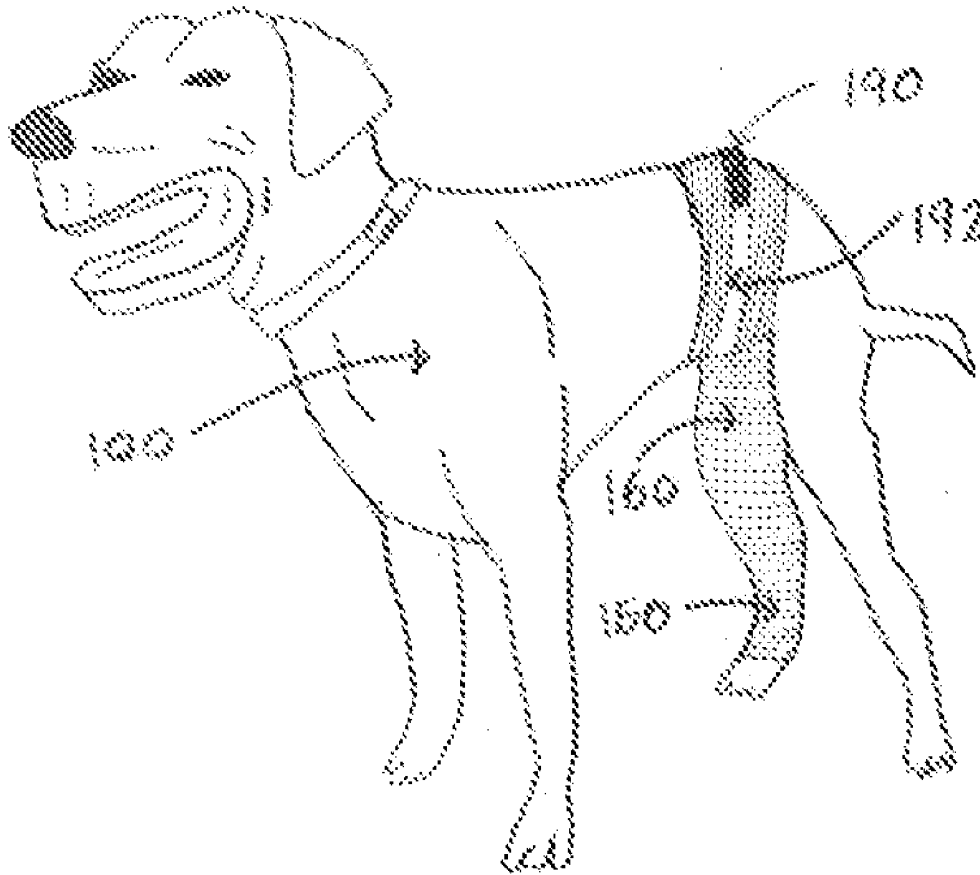
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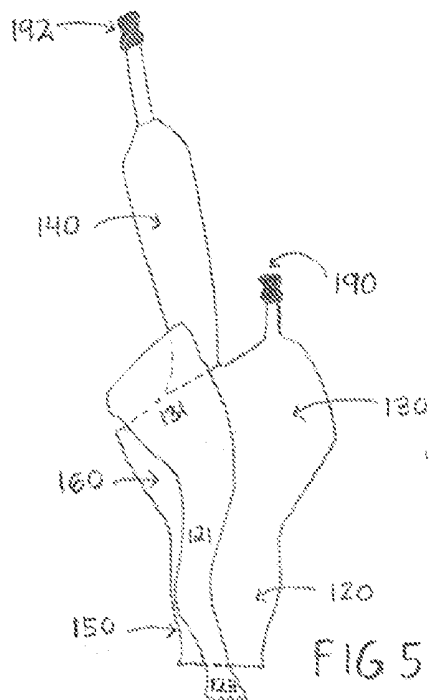
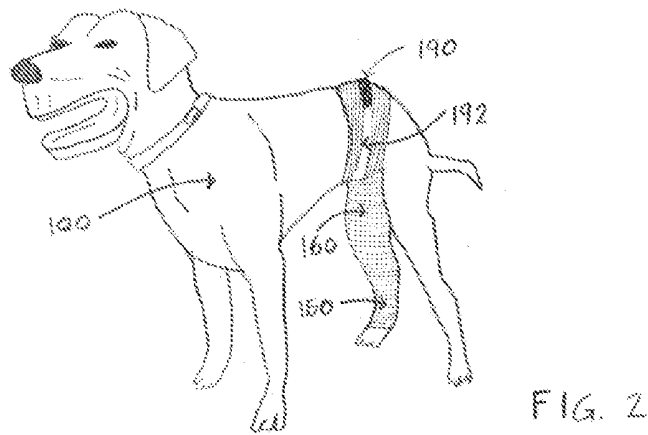
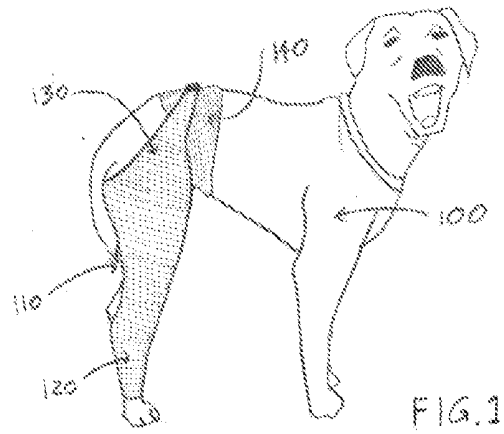
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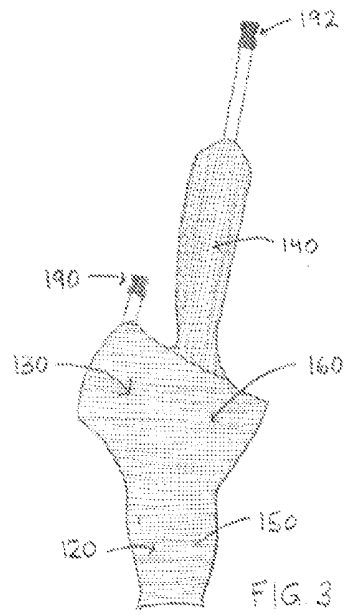
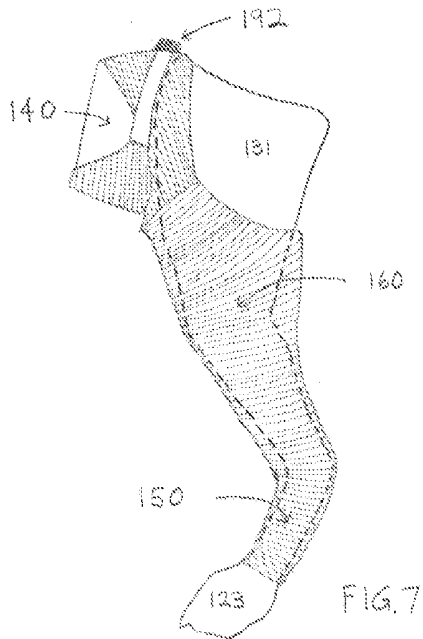
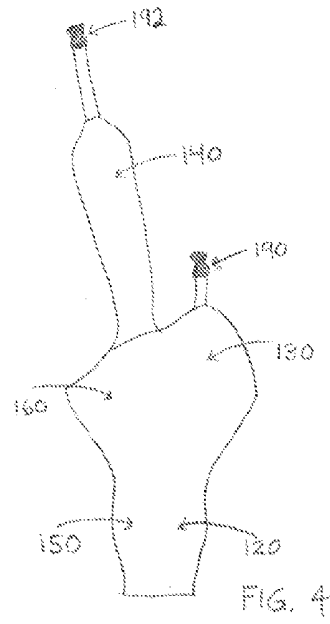
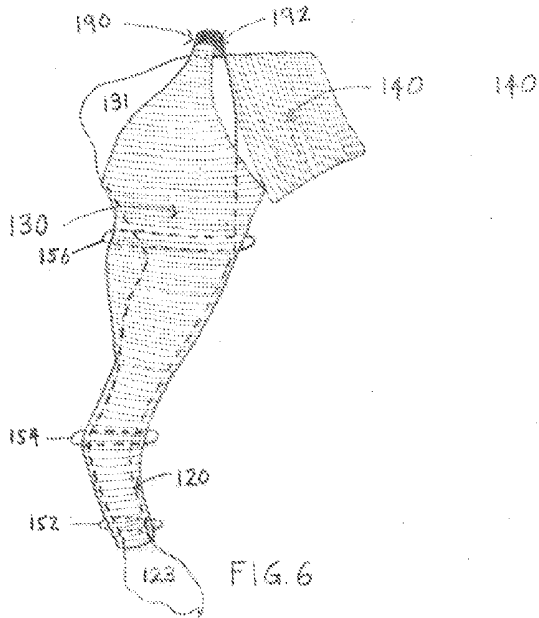
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ANIMAL SURGERY PROTECTIVE SLEEVE

SUMMARY

[0001] This application claims priority to Provisional Application Ser. No. 62/293,323 filed Feb. 9, 2016, the content of which is incorporated by reference.

BACKGROUND

[0002] Anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) surgery [also called Cranial Cruciate Ligament (CCL) surgery] is the most common orthopedic surgery performed in dogs. When the ACL ruptures or is torn, the joint becomes unstable causing the femur and tibia to move back and forth across each other leading to severe pain and arthritis. ACL injury can occur from trauma or more commonly from a genetics based degeneration.

[0003] Typical surgical techniques used to treat ACL injuries in dogs require an incision on the leg. The most common surgical techniques used to treat this injury in dogs are the lateral fabellar suture and the tibial plateau leveling osteotomy (TPLO). During these procedures non absorbable surgical implants are used to restore stability to the joint.

[0004] Anytime surgical stainless steel or other implant materials are placed underneath the skin of dogs or people the surgical sight is significantly more prone to serious infection. The most common cause of infection in dogs is their own licking of the incision. In addition to licking the incision dogs can cause damage to their incisions by pawing/scratching, rubbing on objects, rolling in dirt, or from other pets in the household licking them.

[0005] Surgical site infections in animals are a serious post operative complication. Infections lead to severe pain, delayed healing, additional hospitalization, increased cost, exacerbation of other health issues (diabetes, kidney failure, heart disease, etc.), amputation of the limb, and death.

[0006] Extreme challenges still exist in veterinary medicine to prevent pets from damaging their incisions. The traditional plastic cone over the head of the animal variously known as the "E-collar" (short for "Elizabethan collar"), the "lampshade," the "satellite dish," or "the cone of shame" is the most common solution to the problem of postoperative incision complications and other areas in need of self-trauma avoidance. Other objects have been created that can be affixed around the pet's neck (bite not collars, doughnuts, soft e-collars etc.) and these in combination with the cone have been proposed. However, the same problems remain; discomfort to the pet and person, damage to household items, improper fitting, inability to eat or drink when wearing device, difficulty walking, unable to fit in kennel or through dog door, and more. As a result, it is well known most dog owners are unable or unwilling to keep the cone on the dog for the required amount of time.

[0007] Fabric covers have been developed for the limbs of animals in various shapes and sizes. These covers are either front limb specific, only cover a portion of the leg, or require fixation to a harness or torso cover to stay in place. The problem with these other fabric coverings is their inability to stay snugly in place without sliding, bunching or falling off. Some models do not cover enough surface area, or have to go over both legs to stay in place. Often times the materials are of insufficient quality, the pets do not tolerate the design, or the cost of the product is too high.

[0008] Given these problems and more, veterinarians, pets and pet owners are still in need of additional solutions to prevent their pet's self destruction.

[0009] In one aspect, a pet protection system includes a leg portion having a first end having a first cross-section having a flexible opening to insert a pet foot therethrough; an angled portion coupled to the first end and having a second cross-section greater than the first cross-section; and a second end coupled to the angled portion, wherein the second end has a third cross-section greater than the second cross-section; and a body portion coupled to the leg portion, the body portion forming a loop that fits securely on a body of the pet.

[0010] In another aspect, a method to protect a pet using a sleeve includes with the pet lying down to prevent injury or falling, placing the first end portion on a leg; stretching the ankle cuff portion of the sleeve over the pet's paw; moving the pet into a standing position; placing the body portion on an inside of the leg and wrapping the body portion around a belly of the pet towards an opposite leg; and strapping the body portion with the second portion to produce a tight fit.

[0011] Advantages of the system may include one or more of the following. The sleeve is washable, reusable, and reversible. The sleeve is easy to store and easy to put on and remove and stays in place on the dog with no need to clip to the dog's collar or harness. The sleeve covers the whole leg instead of just the incisional area. It reduces anxiety for both the dog and the owner. The sleeve minimizes problems from self-trauma situations in pets. The sleeve reduces the need for re-stitching incision sites and reduces the cost associated with antibiotics from the pet's scratches. The system enhances the healing of pets by reducing the pet's ability to access, scratch, lick or chew on their healing wound or surgical incision. This is done without aggravation to the pet, improving compliance with veterinary recommendations to keep the sleeve in place for the specified duration required for healing. Additionally, the sleeve protects the pet and fragile items in the house, unlike the cone where the dog can barrel headlong into household items or people. The sleeve is comfortable for the dog, unlike the cone that can cause dogs to howl, paw, turn in an endless circle, or perform alligator death rolls on the ground, etc. whenever the pet is wearing a cone. The sleeve is also durable, unlike cones whose edges can be destroyed, rendering the cones useless. The sleeve could also be used as a supplement to the existing plastic cone. For a majority of pets these sleeves will allow for a cone free recovery.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0012] FIG. 1 shows a perspective view of an outer face of a sleeve system on a pet.

[0013] FIG. 2 shows a perspective view of an inside face of the sleeve system on a pet.

[0014] FIGS. 3-4 show a view of the inside and the outside of the sleeve system when the main sleeve seam has been removed and the sleeve system rests flat on a surface.

[0015] FIG. 5 shows a view of FIG. 4 with a leg to be protected on the surface of the sleeve system.

[0016] FIG. 6 shows an outside view of the leg inside the sleeve similar to FIG. 1

[0017] FIG. 7 shows an inside view of the leg inside the sleeve similar to FIG. 2

DESCRIPTION

[0018] FIGS. 1-7 show an exemplary protection system for a pet 100. FIG. 1 shows a perspective view of an outer surface of a sleeve system on a pet while FIG. 2 shows a perspective view of an inside surface of the sleeve system on the pet. The system has a leg portion that includes 3 components: a first end to receive a hind foot, an angled or bent portion to handle the hook of the leg, and a second end adapted to fit the upper thigh. The first end 120 has outer and inner surfaces 120 and 150 (FIG. 4) and further having a first cross-section 152 (FIG. 6) having a flexible opening to insert a pet's foot therethrough. An elastic band can be used at a bottom of the first end to prevent slippage off a foot or up a leg.

[0019] The first end extends into an angled portion having a second cross-section 154 (FIG. 6) greater than the first cross-section 152. The system includes a second end with outer and inner surfaces 130 and 160 that is connected to the angled portion. The second end has a third cross-section 156 (FIG. 6) greater than the second cross-section 154. Additionally, the system includes a body portion 140 or belly band/support connected to the leg portion, the body portion 140 forming a loop that fits securely on a body of the pet. The body portion 140 is further secured to the pet's belly using straps 190-192. The straps can include buckles or hook and loop with adjustability.

[0020] FIGS. 3-4 show a view of the inside and the outside of the sleeve system when the main sleeve seam has been removed and the sleeve system rests flat on a surface. FIG. 3 shows the sleeve system as cut flat to rest on a planar surface. The portions are glued together, sewn together or fused together by heat sealing to form a seam.

[0021] As shown in FIG. 4, two straps 192 and 190 connects a distal end of the body portion 140 to the distal portion of the second end at outer surface 130. In the embodiment of FIG. 4, the straps 192 and 190 have a male end (190) connected to the body portion and a female end (192) connected to the second end. Preferably, the strap 140 starts by first being wrapped under a pet's belly when used on a hind limb to avoid slippage off a pet's back. In one embodiment, the two straps include a male and female buckle fastener to provide reversibility.

[0022] FIG. 5 shows a view of FIG. 4 with a leg to be protected on the surface of the sleeve system, while FIG. 6 shows the leg inside the sleeve. As shown in FIG. 6, the second end's outer side 130 is longer than the inner side 160. Further, the second end has a tapered shape in the direction of the pet's head. The second end eventually tapers to connect to the body portion which is a narrower than the second end and has an elongated shape.

[0023] FIG. 7 shows an inside view of the leg inside the sleeve. As shown in FIG. 7, the inner side of the second portion can have a curved shape at the top of the second portion. Alternatively, the inner side of the second portion can have a substantially L shaped cut at the top of the second end.

[0024] The body portion can have a U-shaped area cut-out or a penis hole in the body portion. One or more attachments can be connected to the portions at a selected location on a pet body. One or more pet offensive materials can be secured to the attachment to the pet to repel it from licking the selected location. The offensive material includes pepper, metronidazole, bitter apple, or electric shock, among others. Wearable electronics can be used as an attachment to moni-

tor or affect a pet. The wearable electronics monitor one of an activity level, a heart rate, a blood pressure, electrocardiogram (ECG) signal, or temperature, electrical muscle stimulators, among others. Additionally, a hook and loop combination can be positioned on a selected area for securing the proper fit to avoid slipping or bunching.

[0025] One method to protect a pet using a sleeve includes with the pet lying down to prevent injury or falling, placing the first end portion on a leg; stretching the ankle cuff portion of the sleeve over the pet's paw; moving the pet into a standing position; placing the body portion on an inside of the leg and wrapping the body portion around a belly of the pet towards an opposite leg; and strapping the body portion with the second portion to produce a tight fit.

[0026] The Protective Sleeve for animals addresses the concerns of the animal disrupting the healing of the incisions and wounds. This is done with the use of a stretch fabric that is light weight, conforming, durable, and is moisture resistant. The blends of fabric used include polyester, lycra spandex, nylon, kevlar, cordura, or other such suitable fabrics. The sleeve features an elastic band at the bottom to prevent slippage off the foot or up the leg. The contours of the sleeve fit both the front and back legs. The main strap of the sleeve is designed to go under the belly of the pet when used on the hind limb, which enables the sleeve to stay in place without slipping off the back of the pet.

[0027] Straps with plastic buckle fasteners have been specifically chosen as they are the best means of fixation which preserve the reversibility of the sleeve. The ability of the sleeve to be turned inside out/be reversible is a key design feature and is what allows the same sleeve to fit all 4 limbs. The straps are adjustable to better fit a size range of animals. The straps are contoured in such a way to accommodate the male penis for urination and comfort. A u-shaped area has been cut out and in some sleeves a hole for the penis to exit has been incorporated. The short strap is sewn off center and towards the head of the pet to assist the longer strap in preventing the sleeve from slipping of the back of the animal. The two straps connect via a male and female buckle system. The sleeve is designed to be manufactured in multiple sizes and double sleeve configuration to accommodate additional surface area coverage and further insure the functionality. Attachments to the sleeve using hook and loop, magnetic or mechanical devices are being developed for multiple functions. The functions include but are not limited to holding offensive materials (peppers, metronidazole, or bitter apple) to the pet to repel it from licking the area. Hook and loop (velcro) can be used in some areas of the sleeve to optimize securing the proper fit to avoid slipping or bunching. Wearables to monitor or affect the animals activity level, heart rate, blood pressure, ECG, and temperature (prevent being left in car) are capable of being fit into the design. The figures show the pattern and dimensions for cutting the materials to be used in the construction of the sleeve.

[0028] The protective sleeve is best placed by first having the dog lie down on its side opposite of the leg upon which the sleeve is to be placed (lay down with the desired leg up). In other words, if the right leg is to be covered then the dog should lay on its left side. With the dog lying down to prevent injury or falling, the tubular portion of the sleeve can be placed on the leg much like placing a pant leg or sock on a person. Once a substantial portion of the tubed portion is on the leg, the narrow diameter ankle cuff portion of the

sleeve is stretched over the dogs paw. This ankle cuff portion of the sleeve is specifically designed not to later slip off or over the dog's paw as dogs tend to be bothered when any fabric is covering or underneath their footpads.

[0029] Once the tube portion of the sleeve is in place then the dog is allowed to stand to begin the placement of the belly bandage. It should be noted that the belly band is the longer of the two bands to which the strap and buckles are attached. The longer belly band portion of the sleeve should be on the medial or inside aspect of the leg. If the belly band is not starting from the inside aspect of the leg then the sleeve must be removed from the dogs leg (preferably with the dog laying down to prevent injury or falling), turned inside out and replaced on the leg.

[0030] With the longer bellyband portion of the sleeve on the inside of the leg (dog standing) begin wrapping it around the belly towards the opposite leg. The belly band will pass in front of the opposite leg over the back of the dog, around the underneath side of the belly again, in front of the opposite leg again, and end on top of the dogs back. At this point the shorter band connected to the tubular portion of the sleeve along with its strap and buckle should meet up with the longer bellyband buckle over the top of the dogs back. Clasp the two portions of the buckle together and tighten the adjustable strap as needed to produce a tight fit.

[0031] Adjustments to the longer bellyband portion of the sleeve can be made at this time to improve comfort and prevent bunching up of the fabric around the belly or the male dog's prepuce. It should also be noted at this time that manual shifting of the sleeve towards the dogs head should be promoted as the number one problem with improper fitting is for the sleeve to slip off of the dogs back towards the tail.

[0032] Additional adjustments and tightening may be required over time as the fabric conforms and stretches to the particular dogs fit.

[0033] Various modifications and alterations of the invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention, which is defined by the accompanying claims.

[0034] It should be noted that steps recited in any method claims below do not necessarily need to be performed in the order that they are recited. Those of ordinary skill in the art will recognize variations in performing the steps from the order in which they are recited. In addition, the lack of mention or discussion of a feature, step, or component provides the basis for claims where the absent feature or component is excluded by way of a proviso or similar claim language.

What is claimed is:

1. A pet protection system, comprising:

a leg portion having:

a first end having a first cross-section having a flexible opening to insert a pet foot therethrough;

an angled portion coupled to the first end and having a second cross-section greater than the first cross-section; and

a second end coupled to the angled portion, wherein the second end has a third cross-section greater than the second cross-section; and

a body portion coupled to the leg portion, the body portion forming a loop that fits securely on a body of the pet.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the second end has an outer side and an inner side, the outer side being longer than the inner side.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein the inner side comprises either a curved shaped top portion or a substantially L shaped top portion of the second end.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein the second end comprises a tapered shape.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein the body portion comprises an elongated shape.

6. The system of claim 1, comprising two straps coupling the body portion to the second end.

7. The system of claim 6, wherein the body portion tapers into one strap.

8. The system of claim 6, wherein the straps comprise a male end coupled to the body portion and a female end coupled to the second end.

9. The system of claim 6, wherein the straps are under a pet's belly when used on a hind limb to avoid slippage off a pet's back.

10. The system of claim 6, wherein the two straps connect with a male and female buckle fastener to provide reversibility.

11. The system of claim 1, wherein at least one or more portions are glued together, sewn together or fused together by heat sealing to form a seam.

12. The system of claim 1, comprising an elastic band at a bottom of the first end to prevent slippage off a foot or up a leg.

13. The system of claim 1, comprising a U-shaped area cut-out or a penis hole in the body portion.

14. The system of claim 1, comprising one or more attachments coupled to the one of the leg portions at a selected location on a body of the pet.

15. The system of claim 14, comprising one or more pet offensive materials coupled to the one or more attachments to the pet to repel it from licking the selected location.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein the offensive materials includes pepper, metronidazole, or bitter apple.

17. The system of claim 14, comprising wearable electronics coupled to the attachment to monitor or affect a pet.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein the wearable electronics monitor one of an activity level, a heart rate, a blood pressure, electrocardiogram (ECG) signal, or temperature.

19. The system of claim 1, comprising a hook and loop combination positioned on a selected area for securing a proper fit to avoid slipping or bunching.

20. A method to protect a pet including a leg portion having: a first end having a first cross-section having a flexible opening to insert a pet's foot therethrough; an angled portion coupled to the first end and having a second cross-section greater than the first cross-section; and a second end coupled to the angled portion, wherein the second end has a third cross-section greater than the second cross-section; and a body portion coupled to the leg portion, the body portion forming a loop that fits securely on a body of the pet, the method comprising:

with the pet lying down to prevent injury or falling, placing the first end portion on the leg portion;

stretching an ankle cuff portion of the sleeve over a pet's paw;

moving the pet into a standing position;

placing the body portion on an inside of the leg and
wrapping the body portion around a belly of the pet
towards an opposite leg; and
strapping the body portion with the second end to produce
a tight fit.

* * * * *

专利名称(译)	动物手术保护套		
公开(公告)号	US20170231193A1	公开(公告)日	2017-08-17
申请号	US15/426006	申请日	2017-02-06
[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	ALLMAN DAVID		
申请(专利权)人(译)	ALLMAN, DAVID		
当前申请(专利权)人(译)	ALLMAN, DAVID		
[标]发明人	ALLMAN DAVID		
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优先权	62/293323 2016-02-09 US		
外部链接	Espacenet USPTO		

摘要(译)

一种宠物保护系统，包括腿部，所述腿部具有第一端，所述第一端具有第一横截面，所述第一横截面具有柔性开口以将宠物脚插入其中；倾斜部分，连接到第一端并具有大于第一横截面的第二横截面；和连接到成角度部分的第二端，其中第二端具有大于第二横截面的第三横截面；和连接到腿部的主体部分，主体部分形成一个环，该环牢固地配合在宠物的身体上。

