

## E-Collar Will Keep Dog From Licking

**A plastic cone collar prevents a dog from reaching the area he wants to chew.**

*By Jon Geller, DVM*

Q. My dog has a sore on his paw that he keeps licking and chewing. I've tried cleaning it and wrapping it, but he takes the wrap off it. What else can I do right now? My budget is very tight and the vets in my area charge an arm and leg.

A. Ultimately, your dog's foot will need to be examined by your veterinarian so appropriate treatment can be started. That's the only way to solve the problem.

In the meantime, you can purchase an Elizabethan collar (E-collar) at a pet-supply store. Most dogs will not leave their feet alone if there is any pain, swelling or inflammation. No type of bandage or bitter-tasting spray will keep a determined dog from removing the bandage, possibly ingesting it, and causing a lot of damage to their foot due to licking and chewing. An E-collar will prevent your dog from reaching his feet.

Unfortunately, the collars are awkward and inconvenient, especially for dog owners. When wearing one of these sharp-edged plastic cones, dogs will run into doors and walls, as well as their owner's shins.