

EAR TAPING METHOD

These instructions were originally written by my good friend and mentor Jennifer Tellier of Telstar Boxers (including all photos in this document). I tweaked them a little a bit, as well as added links and info on where to find some of the supplies.



Here is a puppy with ears taped after ten days of wearing the wraps (Ch Telstar's Dixieland Band)

Notice, though the tape is soiled by now, the ears are still held erect on top of the head.

Supply List (Shown below)

Curity Porous 1 inch Tape (#2531) is the very Best, but Johnson and Johnson Zonas Porous is OK, but does not have the sticking quality that Curity brand has. This tape is breathable.

14" Cable ties that have tinsel strength of 120-cut to size. They can be found at Fry's Home Depot & Lowe's- electrical supply dept. The size and flexibility of the Tie is important, the size is a little harder to find than the smaller thinner ones. The nice quality about the plastic cable tie as opposed to a wooden popsicle stick, is that the plastic is flexible, will bend but will not break. The flexibility also allows for a slight bend in the ear that will give a better stretch to the ear.



Zo-Eze Adhesive Remover by Breen Laboratories ((323) 778-1687). Great for taking tape off the ears, especially for a new crop so the tips can't of ears can't be damaged. I pour it into a spray bottle to spray on. Let it work it's magic for 1 minute, then simply remove the tape, it practically falls off and leaves no grease/oils on the ear, allowing for immediate retaping. Your puppy will appreciate your loving care for using this product.

Scissors

Cosmetic Square Cotton Pads

Rubbing Alcohol

Foot Powder

Krylon Adhesive Spray (optional). Important to get this brand cuz some others have a different compound that breaks down and gets gummy or causes irritation to the puppies ears. I personally haven't used it for some time now.

Thoroughly clean ear inside and out with rubbing alcohol. Do this before you start making your stays and setting up your strips of tape to ensure the ears will have time to dry before the taping begins.



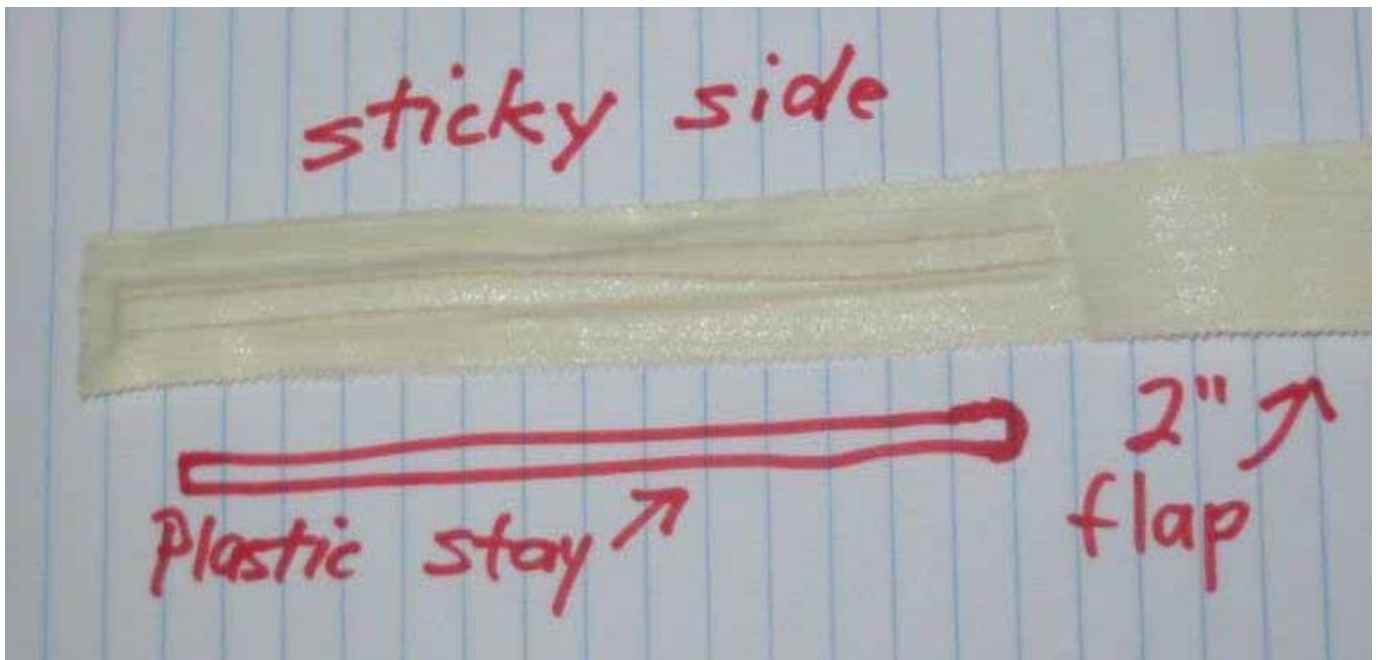
Prepare the “Ear Stays”

- Cut plastic stays the size you need, measuring from deep down inside the ear to the tip of the ear (Boxers: The first time taping after an ear crop the length is usually 4-3/4”. After two or three tapings, the taping is usually 5-1/4” as the ears continue to grow/stretch. The boys or longer show crops may eventually require 5-1/2” stays).



- Gently round one end of each stay with clippers or dremmel. This is the end that will be inserted into the ear.
- Cut Two strips of tape for each stay, 2-1/2" longer than stay. Lay on table sticky side up. Cut another piece approx. 3". Then tear down the middle of the strip (lengthwise) to create two narrow pieces as shown.
- Leaving a 1/2" of tape at the top, place the square end of the plastic stay on the sticky side of tape, as shown (if one side of the tie has a rough edge, I place that side down on the tape to get a good "grip" on the tape). There should be approx. 2" of tape left at the end of the stay with the curved edge.
- With the sticky side up, place the matching

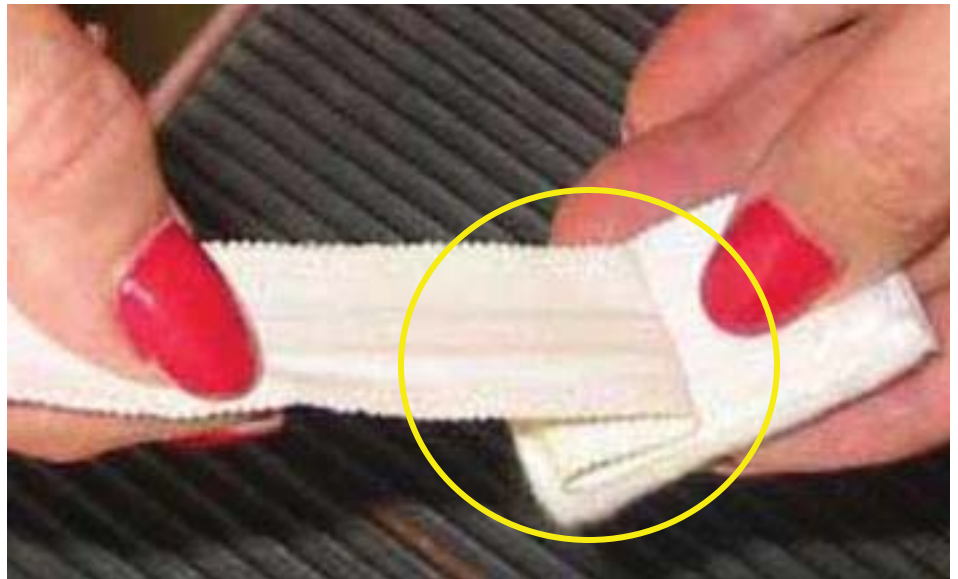
second piece of tape on top of the piece with the stay. When finished, there should be a sticky side and a non-sticky side. Keep the sticky side facing up. At both ends of the stay, pinch the tape together and wiggle the tape from stay side to side to makes the two pieces of tape stick together. Secure the tie between the tape by running the scissors along the outside edges of the tie. This is important to prevent the tie from slipping around.



- Using a Cotton Cosmetic Pad as shown, fold pad in half.



- Apply the cotton pad to the end of the stay with the extra tape. Place the end of the tape at the top edge of the folded pad, making sure the side edges are lined up (not the top edge, to prevent the stay from becoming crooked). Lay 1" of the sticky side of the tape across the pad. Then fold back the tape as shown so the stay is "standing" in the center of the pad.



Then fold the cotton piece in half again so there is cotton on both sides of the stay as shown. Pinch the cotton to the stays. I like to push the bottom corners in so the cotton end is somewhat rounded.





cotton swab, lightly spray the sticky side of the stay with the adhesive spray (optional). This gives it a little more adhesion so the stay will stay in place for a longer period of time.

- To permanently hold the cotton swab in place at the end of the stay, wrap one of the skinny pieces of tape around the top of the cotton, catching the tape on the tie and the top of the cotton,.
- Holding the stay by the

Pictured below is a completed stay as well as the tape required to wrap one ear. Starting with a piece of tape approx. 6" in length, cut 3-4 more pieces approx. 1" shorter than the previous piece. Multiple pieces of tape are used for wrapping up the ear to prevent wrapping too tightly, which is prone to happen when using one continuous piece; thereby cutting off circulation.

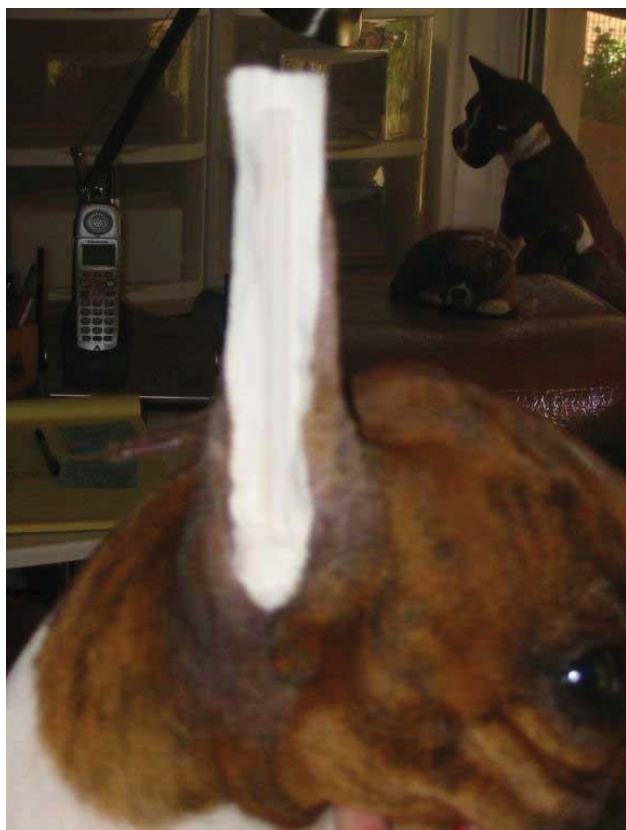


Dip the cotton portion of the stay into medicated powder or foot powder. If the ear is sore inside, you can insert a dab of Neosporin into the ear canal first.

Posting the Ear

This part is very important: With the sticky side facing toward the ear, stick the cotton end of the stay into the “pocket” of the ear **as far as it will go** by **gently** pushing down and wiggling around. Pull the ear up straight. With a slight bow in the stay, press the top of the stay to the tip of the ear, folding the ½” piece of tape over the tip of ear. Hold the stay to the tip of the ear while holding the ear up. With your other hand, press the rest of the stay to the ear. With ear between fingers, smooth the tape upward, making sure the stay is stuck firmly to ear.

The reason it is VERY IMPORTANT to have the stay go down as far into the ear as possible is because it will pop out and the stays will teepee together at the top of the head. If that happens, remove tape...start all over again.



Here is a picture of an ear after the stay has been inserted in the ear. Notice how the ear is nice and straight. If the puppy still had edges not healed yet, they can be left like that (if you don't have other boxers who may try to chew them off) or split the strips of tape in half length wise and avoid wrapping the sections not healed.

While holding the ear up tightly (continue to keep ear stretched through entire process), wrap the ears, starting with the longest piece, wrapping the base of the ear. The first piece of tape you wrap around the ear is the most important one cuz it sets the ears upright. Place the end of



the first piece of tape on the stay on the stay, lining the top of the strip of tape with the edge of the stay closest to the bell, making sure the strip is firmly taped (anchored) to the stay and wrap the base of the ear **toward the front** of the dogs head. The ear has a natural fold in the front of the ear, so when wrapping around the dogs ear, allow the fold to be folded. As you make a full wrap and return to the stay, rub the strip of tape to the stay and wrap around again for the length of the strip without pulling

the wrap tighter. Wrap snugly, **NOT tightly**, or the circulation in the ear will be cut off. Pinch the tape to the ear to make sure it sticks to the ear. With the next piece of tape slightly overlapping the first piece, repeat the wrapping process. Continue winding up and around the ear, using smaller pieces as you go, each time overlapping and pinching tape to the ear. **START THE** last wrap ¼” below the top of the ear, catching the edge of the piece of tape on the stay that we folded over. When ear is all taped, curve the ear around the stay a little to maintain the natural curve.

DO NOT WRAP OVER THE TOP OF THE STAY. THIS IS TO MAKE IT EASY FOR YOU WHEN YOU GO TO REMOVE THE TAPING by leaving a pocket.

To remove the old tape, spray all areas of the tape with Zo-Eze and let set for 1 minute. Starting at the backside base of the ear where the natural fold has created a little pocket. With a pair of bandage removal scissors insert your scissors in the pocket. Start cutting up the ear, with scissors guided away from the natural fold, up to the tip of the ear and out the top of the last wrap. Now just peel the tape off the ear toward the stay, the stay will come out of the ear still attached to the tape.

You know that you have done a good job, when the ears stand up straight. If they should tip outwards it is an indication you are not winding the tape around properly, or you did not insert the stay into the ear far enough.



You can leave the tape on the ears as long as two weeks. Make sure the tape does not get wet. If the puppy is shaking his head excessively, it is an indication that the puppy has a sore place in the ear, or even an inner ear yeast infection. You can medicate, and rewrap. When first starting this taping process, only leave the ears taped for 4-5 days to check for infections or sore spots. Each time you retape, you can leave ears wrapped longer. Maximum is two weeks in-between tapings. If ears show progress, leave wraps off until they start t”wilting”, then retape as needed. Each puppy is different. Some take longer than others to stand....
Persevere!. It will be worth it.