

The Hindlimb Bandage



There are many reasons your horse could need a bandage, either from wounds or surgical procedures. Whatever your horse is recovering from, being able to change your horse's bandage properly is a vital step in their recovery process.

Materials Needed:

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| • Proper Restraint | • Sheet Cotton |
| • Gloves | • Brown Gauze |
| • Telfa | • Vet Wrap |
| • Cast Padding/Rolled Gauze | • Elastikon |

Step 1: Covering the Wound

After cleaning and medicating the wound per your veterinarian's instructions, place a non-adhesive absorbent pad (Telfa) over the affected area. Secure it in place with the use of rolled cast padding. When wrapping, be sure to wrap from the outside of the limb (lateral), to the inside of the limb (medial), from front (cranial), to back (caudal), and overlap each successive wrap by about 50%. This means that the wrap is counter-clockwise when wrapping the left limb and clockwise when wrapping the right limb. Hold the wrap in a way that it easily unrolls as you wrap around the leg. Wrap this layer to several inches above and below the Telfa, being sure to leave an unwrapped wedge over the hock to allow the hock to flex. This layer needs to be snug enough that it does not slip, but not pulled too tightly either.



Apply the Telfa over the wound.



Wrap the cast padding over the Telfa. Note direction of the wrap, amount of overlap, the wedge over the hock, and that the roll is held in a way to be easily unrolled.



A completed cast padding layer.

Step 2: Adding Support

The next step in placing a hindlimb bandage is to add the bottom wrap using sheet cotton. This layer helps to provide support to the limb. Wrap the cotton around the limb, from lateral to medial and cranial to caudal. The cotton should rest just below the coronary band. Try to smooth out any large wrinkles in the cotton before proceeding to prevent it from being uncomfortable against the horse's leg. Next, brown gauze will be wrapped over the cotton. Beginning about ½ inch below the top of the cotton, wrap the brown gauze down the limb, again from lateral to medial, and cranial to caudal, overlapping each successive wrap by about 50%. Be sure to hold the roll of gauze in a way that it easily unrolls as you wrap around the leg. Stop wrapping about ½ inch from the bottom of the cotton. Once the bottom is reached, you can continue to wrap with this layer, climbing up the limb. Be sure to pull this layer tight by pulling the gauze until it is taut across the front of the limb and then laying it across the back of the limb.



Apply the cotton so it sits below the coronary band.



Note the tension when applying this layer, the direction of the wrap, and that the roll is held in a way to be easily unrolled.



A finished cotton and brown gauze layer.

Step 3: Completing the Stack

Next, the cotton and brown gauze layer will be repeated above the bottom wrap. The top roll of cotton should overlap with the bottom layer by about 1 inch. Wrap the cotton around the limb, from lateral to medial and cranial to caudal. Again, try to smooth out any large wrinkles in the cotton before proceeding to prevent it from being uncomfortable against the horse's leg. Next, brown gauze will be wrapped over the cotton. Beginning about ½ inch below the top of the cotton, wrap the brown gauze down the limb, again from lateral to medial, and cranial to caudal, overlapping each successive wrap by about 50%. Be sure to hold the roll of gauze in a way that it easily unrolls as you wrap around the leg. Wrap the brown gauze down past the edge of the top cotton, onto the bottom cotton, and back up, being sure to leave an unwrapped wedge over the hock to allow the hock to flex. Be sure to pull this layer tight by pulling the gauze until it is taut across the front of the limb and then laying it across the back of the limb.



The top cotton layer will overlap the top 1 inch of the bottom wrap.



The brown gauze should wrap down past the bottom edge of the upper cotton onto the bottom wrap. Be sure to leave an unwrapped wedge over the hock.



A completed layer of brown gauze and rolled cotton.

Step 4: Wrap it Up!

After the brown gauze is in place, the next layer is Vet Wrap. Starting at the top of the limb and working down, wrap the Vet Wrap from lateral to medial, from cranial to caudal, overlapping by about 50% on each successive wrap and holding the roll of Vet Wrap in a way that it easily unrolls as you wrap around the leg. Be sure to cover the brown gauze with this layer. Depending on your horse's leg length, more than one roll of Vet Wrap may be needed to completely wrap the limb. Try to avoid wrinkles in this layer by pulling the edge of the vet wrap slightly up or down to help lay it smoothly across the leg. This layer should be snug, but not overly tight. Be sure to firmly press the edge of the Vet Wrap onto the bandage to ensure that it does not come unwrapped.



Start at the bottom and wrap up the limb to cover the brown gauze.



Note direction of the wrap, amount of overlap, and that the roll is held in a way to be easily unrolled. Be sure to leave an unwrapped wedge over the hock.



A completed layer of Vet Wrap.

Step 5: Secure the Bandage

The final step is to use the Elastikon to help secure the bandage in place and to help keep dirt and debris out of the bandage. Lay the Elastikon so it is over both the bandage and the horse's hair, sticky side facing the horse. Again, wrap from lateral to medial, cranial to caudal, in 2-3 layers over the ends of the bandage only. This layer should not be applied under tension. This process is repeated at the bottom of the bandage as well over the horse's hoof. A piece of Elastikon can also be used to cover the bandage gap over the hock to keep out debris.



Apply this layer at both ends of the bandage.



A completed bandage.