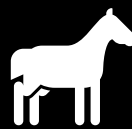


# The Hoof Bandage



There are many reasons your horse could need a hoof bandage, either from wounds or abscesses. 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:

- |                                  |             |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| • Proper Restraint               | • Diaper    |
| • Gloves                         | • Vet Wrap  |
| • Hoof Pick                      | • Duct Tape |
| • Hoof Packing Material/Poultice | • Elastikon |

## Step 1: Packing the Hoof



After cleaning the hoof, pack the bottom of the hoof with your packing material. In this example, a Poultice Pad is being used.

First, begin by cleaning the hoof thoroughly. Be sure to clean not only the sole, but also the walls of the hoof. After the hoof is clean, clean and medicate the wound or abscess per your veterinarian's instructions. Once the wound has been cleaned, pack the bottom of the hoof with poultice or other hoof packing material. Examples of packing materials can include Poultice Pads, Magna Paste, or gauze soaked in iodine. Talk to your veterinarian to determine the best product for you and your horse.

## Step 2: Add the Diaper

The next step in placing a hoof bandage is to place a diaper on the foot. The diaper functions to keep the poultice in place, add an absorbent layer to the bandage, and add some padding to the underside of the hoof. To apply, place the seat of the diaper over the bottom of the hoof. Use the tabs of the diaper to secure the diaper in place by fastening them around the pastern.



Apply the diaper so that the seat of it sits over the sole of the hoof. Fasten the diaper around the pastern.



A diaper properly applied over the hoof.

## Step 3: Wrap it Up!

Next, Vet Wrap will be used to help keep the bandage in place. Holding the roll in a way that it easily unrolls, wrap the Vet Wrap over the diaper. This wrap can be difficult to get in place due to the shape of the hoof. One method to wrap is a Figure Eight pattern. After wrapping around the hoof wall bring the wrap over one heel bulb, across the bottom of the hoof to the opposite side of hoof. Next, bring the wrap over the toe to the opposite side of the hoof and across the bottom of the hoof to the opposite heel bulb. It may take several wraps to cover the diaper completely. This wrap should be tight enough to hold the bandage in place but not too tight, especially around the coronary band (where the hoof wall and hair meet). Try to avoid letting the Vet Wrap extend off the diaper onto the horse's leg.



Wrap the Vet Wrap over the walls and sole of the hoof. A figure eight pattern can be helpful to cover the hoof.



The Vet Wrap should completely cover the diaper. Note that the roll is held in a way that unrolls easily.



A completed layer of Vet Wrap.

## Step 4: Duct Tape Boot

The next layer of the hoof bandage is a duct tape boot. This layer helps to keep the bandage clean and dry. To make the duct tape bandage, use a flat surface to stick strips of duct tape to. First begin by laying the strips vertically, overlapping each strip by about 50%. Then lay strips horizontally over the vertical strips, again overlapping by about 50%. The size of the square needed will vary based on your horse's hoof size, but it should be large enough to cover the sole of the foot and extend up the sides of the hoof. To aid in application of the duct tape boot, cut diagonal lines in the corners of duct tape square. To apply the boot, place the center of the square over the hoof. To secure the duct tap to the bandage, fold the edges of the boot around the hoof starting with the back edge of the boot, then the front edge, then the sides.



First lay strips of duct tape vertically. Then lay strips of duct tape horizontally.



A completed duct tape square. The lines indicate where to cut to help the boot stay secure on the hoof.



Lay the duct tape over the bottom of the hoof. Then fold the tabs at the back and front of the hoof over followed by the sides.



A completed duct tape boot.

## 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. Wrap from the outside of the hoof (lateral) to the inside of the hoof (medial), and from the front of the hoof (cranial) to the back of the hoof (caudal), in 2-3 layers over the edge of the bandage.

This layer should not be applied under tension.



A completed bandage.