

Bandaging Basics



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. 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, 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 bandage is to use to use 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 reach from just below the knee to 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.



Apply the cotton so it extends from below the knee to below the coronary band.



Note direction of the wrap and that the roll is held in a way to be easily unrolled.



A finished cotton layer. Be sure to smooth any large wrinkles.

Step 3: Hold it in Place

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 is 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.



Start at the top of the limb and continue wrapping all the way down the limb. Note the tension when applying this layer.



Once the bottom is reached, wrap back up the limb. Note direction of the wrap, amount of overlap, and that the roll is held in a way to be easily unrolled.



A completed layer of brown gauze.

Step 4: Wrap it Up!

After the brown gauze is in place, the next layer is Vet Wrap. Again, 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 and once the bottom is reached, continue to wrap the limb with this layer by climbing back up 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 top of the limb and continue wrapping all the way down the limb to cover the brown gauze.



Once the bottom is reached, wrap back up the limb. Note direction of the wrap, amount of overlap, and that the roll is held in a way to be easily unrolled.



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.



Apply this layer at both ends of the bandage.



A completed bandage.