



## How to Apply a Medical Bandage

### Materials Needed

- Non-stick Telfa pad
- White conforming stretch gauze
- Brown gauze
- 3M™ Vetrap™ Bandaging Tape (not shown)
- Elastikon (not shown)

### Preparation – bandage materials

The desired amount of cotton (usually about 1/3 to 1/2 of the roll for a standard bandage), is rolled out and broken off • It is recommended (but not required) to break the roll in half again for easier application onto the limb.

### Applying the bandage

Treat the wound as needed (clean, dry, and apply wound ointment if indicated) • Place non-stick pad directly over the wound • Secure pad in place with conforming stretch gauze

### Applying the bandage – The cotton layer

• It is easiest if you roll the cotton out over the limb at a 45 degree angle with the limb so that you ‘spiral’ the cotton up and down the limb • The goal is to create an even bandage surface with equal thickness of cotton extending from the heel bulbs to just below the knee (in a front limb) or just below the hock joint (in a hind limb).

### Applying the bandage – Brown gauze

• Next, the brown gauze is applied on top of the cotton layer to hold it in place • It is safe and appropriate to pull the brown gauze tightly across the cotton to create a snug fit.

Applying the bandage – Flexible self-adherent wrap.

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# COASTAL ELITE VETERINARY SERVICES

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## How to Apply a Medical Bandage

**3M™ Vetrap™ Bandaging Tape** is a bandage material which is both strong and flexible • It comes in many different colors and can be bought from our office or at many tack shops • usually 1 roll of wrap per bandage is required • Vetrap™ can be pulled tightly across the bandage so that there are no wrinkles. This will also make the bandage more solid so that it will not loosen or slip. • Vetrap™ must only be applied over top of a thicker layer of bandage on the limb NEVER directly on the limb by itself.

### Finishing the bandage

Finally, a single layer of Elastikon Adhesive tape is applied.

- This is a porous, elastic adhesive tape which can be purchased through our office – one roll will usually last for at least 3 bandage changes.
- A single layer is applied to the top and bottom of the bandage (touching half skin/half bandage at the top and half bandage/half hoof wall at the bottom).
- For infected wounds or fresh wounds, the bandage should be changed every 24 hrs.
- For more chronic wounds, the same bandage may be kept on for up to 48 hrs., or according to the veterinarian's instructions.
- At any point, if a bandage becomes excessively wet or soiled, has wound drainage seeping through its layers to the outside, or becomes loose it should be replaced with a fresh bandage.

### Additional Bandage Tip

Always start with bandage material placed against the side of the limb facing you and then roll out bandage materials AWAY from yourself, pushing the tendons towards the inside of the horse's limb. Doing this will keep the lower limb from becoming injured by the bandage.

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