

HOW TO APPLY AN EQUINE LEG BANDAGE

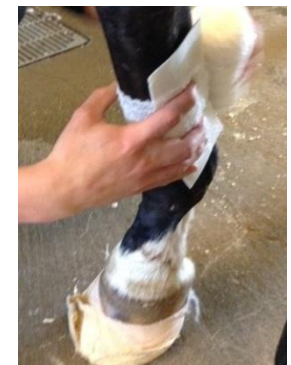
1. Here are the essential components to a basic equine bandage to cover a healing wound or cut on the leg. On the upper left, you have a non-adherent telfa pad. Below the telfa pad is a roll of kerlix. Shown in the middle is a rolled cotton sheet. On the right, from top to bottom are brown gauze, vet wrap, and elastikon. Remember to wrap all layers in the same direction.



2. First, apply the telfa pad by grabbing the edges and putting it directly over the wound. Keep in mind the telfa pad is sterile; do not touch the surface that you will be putting against the wound.



3. Next, roll the kerlix over the telfa pad, making sure to cover the entire affected area. This should be applied snug, but not tight.



4. Next, the cotton sheets are applied to the leg to cover the kerlix, and preferably all the way to the ground (if possible) to avoid slipping. Try to avoid any lumps or bumps while placing this layer. If the cotton stays clean and dry you may be able to use it once more but no more than that.



5. Next, layer the brown gauze (you may possibly need more than one roll). The brown gauze should overlap itself about halfway as you are moving up and down the bandage. Sometimes, using another brown gauze to overlap the first can help smooth out any bulges that are left from the first brown gauze covering. The brown gauze can be applied quite snug, but make sure it does not extend beyond the cotton sheets and at least 1 inch of cotton is sticking out of the top and bottom of the bandage. Brown gauze should never directly contact the skin because it could lead to loss of blood supply to the horse's leg.



6. The next layer is the vet-wrap. The vet-wrap can be applied snug, and should cover the previous layer of brown gauze entirely. Same rules as the brown gauze; make sure there is always at least 1 inch of cotton sticking out the top and bottom of the bandage and overlap on itself about half way as you are moving up and down the bandage. Vet-wrap has three stages of tightness. First stage is loose, this is when the crinkles are still visible and little to no pulling has occurred. Second stage is semi-tight; this is when the crinkles are less visible with almost a smooth look but still apparent, occurring while pulling more tension as you wrap around the leg. The third stage is tight, this is when the vet-wrap appears smooth and no crinkles are left from pulling tight as you wrap around the leg. For an bandage, the third stage of tightness is most desirable.



7. Final layer is elastikon. Elastikon is applied to the top and bottom of the wrap to seal the bandage. You only need to go around a few times with the elastikon, and then cut it off. One roll should be plenty to cover the top and bottom of the bandage. This layer is applied with little to no tension. Make sure to lift the foot and cover the heel to prevent dirt and shavings from the stall traveling up the wrap.



8. If the bandage extends above the horses knee or hock, a figure 8 pattern should be used with the wrap to avoid pressure sores over the back of the joints. You can also wrap over the joints and then use a blade to cut openings in the back to release tension.

