

# How to Apply A Medical Bandage



COLTS HEAD

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# 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  $\frac{1}{3}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  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



- 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).

# Finished !



- 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 it's 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.