

Applying an Equine Lower Hind Limb Bandage

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This bandage is applied after a lateral plantar metatarsal neurectomy for horses with hind limb suspensory desmitis or can be modified for a lateral splint bone removal. Please review the FAQ on the reverse side for additional information, or call 703-771-6800 and ask to speak to one of our licensed veterinary technicians for assistance with applying the bandage. Always start with the horse weight-bearing, tie the tail up for ease when applying a hind limb bandage and make sure the limb is clean and dry and the hair is lying flat.

Assemble your materials:

- * Sterile gauze sponges (AMD)
- * Sterile conform stretch bandage (Kling gauze)
- * Sheet cotton (Cotton Combine)
- * Brown gauze
- * Vetwrap cohesive elastic bandage
- * Elastikon adhesive tape



1. Wearing exam gloves, secure sterile gauze sponges over the incision by rolling sterile conform bandage around the limb from front to back, using secure, but without firm pressure.



2. Overlap each layer of the sterile conform bandage by 50%, ensuring each layer lays flat without wrinkles. Tuck the end of the gauze under itself and ensure it lays flat.



3. Apply Elastikon; unroll to remove tension. Apply over the sterile conform bandage, overlapping by 50% without tension.



4. Make sure that the Elastikon lays flat without wrinkles, and ensure the Elastikon contacts the skin above and below the bandage.



5. Apply sheet cotton smoothly over the first bandage layer. Adjust the cotton bandage so it lies one inch below the hock and below the heel bulbs or level with the fetlock.



6. Start brown gauze one inch below the top of the sheet cotton. Overlap layers by 50% using firm, uniform pressure to provide compression and support. Secure the end of the gauze under itself and ensure it lays flat.



7. Start the Vetwrap one inch below the top of the cotton. Stretch the Vetwrap 50% before application and then overlap each layer by 50% without wrinkles.



8. Ensure the Vetwrap is applied using smooth, uniform pressure to provide compression and support. Continue the Vetwrap down the limb finishing one inch above the end of the sheet cotton.



9. Without tension, wrap Elastikon around the top of the bandage to prevent debris from getting beneath the sheet cotton as well as securing the bandage.



10. Apply a final layer of Elastikon to the bottom of the bandage to seal the bandage to the hoof or the fetlock.



11. This completes the lower hind limb bandage.

Applying a Lower Hind Limb Bandage FAQ

Q. What supplies do I need?

A. For the lower hind limb, you will need:

- Exam gloves: worn when applying the sterile gauze sponges and sterile conform bandage.
- Sterile gauze sponges: placed as the primary dressing, with or without medication, over the wound or surgical site.
- Sterile conform stretch bandage (Kling gauze): applied over the sterile gauze sponges to hold them in place. The sterile conform bandage is wrapped to conform to the limb without tension.
- ElastiKon adhesive tape: applied as a protective layer over the conform bandage, ensuring to contact skin above and below. It is also applied at the top and bottom of the finished bandage to keep out debris and for added security. As you wrap the ElastiKon stretch out large lengths to remove the tension to prevent over-tightening.
- Sheet cotton (Cotton Combine): applied to conform snugly to the limb without wrinkles. Place the cotton one inch below the hock and end below the heel bulbs or level with the fetlock.
- Brown gauze: applied firmly over the cotton layer to apply compression, to control swelling, and provide support. Start one inch below the sheet cotton at the top of the bandage and apply uniform tension to avoid wrinkles.
- Vetwrap cohesive elastic bandage: applied firmly as a protective top layer. As you wrap the bandage, pull out sections of Vetwrap to remove half of the stretch and overlap half of the previous section as you wrap the limb.

Q. Which way should I roll the bandage?

A. Roll the bandage from the front of the limb to the back so that you apply tension over the cannon bone and not over the tendons. Tension should be applied evenly around the entire limb. All bandage layers must roll in the same direction. Wrap each layer evenly, working down the limb and up again, overlapping each layer by half.

Q. Can I apply the bandage too tightly?

A. Yes. A bandage that is applied too tightly can create areas of compression over the tendons causing injury with swelling and potentially a bowed tendon. A too-tight bandage can also restrict blood flow to the lower limb. Make sure that the finished bandage is not too tight by inserting two fingers at the top before you cover it with the last layer of ElastiKon. A bandage that is applied unevenly with wrinkles, lumps, or ridges can cause pressure sores. Make sure that the finished bandage is even by running your hands up and down it to make sure there are no lumps or ridges beneath the bandage.

Q. What problems should I look out for, and what should I do?

A. Watch for these problems and contact the EMC if any of them occurs:

- Signs of infection from a wound or surgical site: pain, heat, swelling, pus, a foul smell, a wound that does not close, sutures that pull apart, or lameness.
- Proud flesh: excessive granulation tissue, the bright pink tissue that bleeds easily and impedes healing.
- Swelling: above the bandage or a bandage bow from a bandage applied too tightly.
- Pressure sores: from a bandage unevenly applied.
- Bandage slippage: which could expose the surgical site, increasing the risk of contamination as well as pressure sores.

Q. How often should I change the bandage?

A. Follow the instructions on the dismissal form provided by your clinician.

- Change the bandage daily for open and draining wounds.
- Change the bandage every three or four days with a clean and sutured wound or surgical site.
- Change the bandage immediately if it becomes wet or soiled or if it slips, as this could increase the risk of contamination of the wound or surgical site.



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