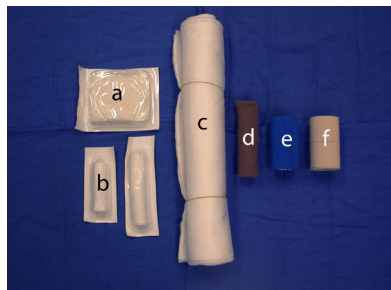


# Equine Bandaging: Applying a Lower Limb Bandage

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*This type of bandage is applied for a variety of lower limb conditions. 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.*



1. Assemble materials:
  - a) Sterile gauze sponges
  - b) Sterile Conform stretch bandage (Kling gauze)
  - c) Sheet cotton (Cotton Combine)
  - d) Brown gauze
  - e) Vetwrap elastic bandage
  - f) Elastikon adhesive tape



2. Wearing exam gloves, secure sterile gauze sponges over the wound by rolling the sterile Conform bandage around the limb from front to back, using secure but not tight pressure.



3. If needed, apply Elastikon for additional security. First, unroll the Elastikon to remove the stretch and then apply over the bandage without tension.



4. Apply sheet cotton over the first bandage layer. The cotton should lie 1 inch below the knee or hock and below the heels.



5. Apply the sheet cotton snugly and smoothly around the limb, so it conforms to the curve of the limb. Always roll in the same direction, from front to back.



6. Start the brown gauze 1 inch below the top of the sheet cotton and use firm, even pressure to apply compression and support.



7. Make sure the brown gauze lies flat with no wrinkles. To secure, tuck the end of the gauze under itself and ensure it lays flat.



8. Start the Vetwrap 1/2 inch below the cotton at the top of the bandage. Stretch the Vetwrap 50% before applying it and overlap each layer by half. No wrinkles should be seen.



9. Without tension, wrap the Elastikon around the top of the bandage to prevent any contaminants from getting beneath the sheet cotton.



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



11. The completed lower limb bandage.

# Applying a Lower Limb Bandage: FAQ

## Q. What supplies do I need?

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

- Exam gloves, which are worn when applying the sterile gauze sponges and sterile Conform bandage.
- Sterile gauze sponges, which are placed as the primary dressing, with or without medication, over the wound or surgical site.
- Sterile Conform stretch bandage (Kling gauze), which is 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 wrap, which, if needed, is applied as a protective layer over the Conform bandage. It is also applied at the top and bottom of the finished bandage to keep out debris. As you wrap the Elastikon, stretch out large lengths to remove the tension to prevent over-tightening.
- Sheet cotton (Cotton Combine), which is applied to conform snugly to the limb without wrinkles. Position the cotton 1 inch below the knee or hock and cover the coronary band and heels.
- Brown gauze, which is applied firmly over the cotton layer to apply compression, to control swelling, and provide support. Start 1 inch below the sheet cotton at the top of the bandage and apply uniform tension to avoid wrinkles.
- Vetwrap cohesive elastic bandage, which is 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

## 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.