

## Aggie Vet and Farrier Services, LLC

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## Bandage Layers

Color code:

**\*\*wound bandage\*\*** applies to layers unique to bandaging a wound - after the first 2 layers, it's all the same

**\*\*support bandage\*\*** applies to layers used to provide support/reduce swelling in a leg

- 1) "Sterile" non-stick bandage **\*\*wound bandage\*\***
  - "Telfa" or "Curad" or similar type of bandage that won't adhere to the wound. These are usually wrapped individually. This bandage is important for wound healing as it sticks less to the wound bed and doesn't pull the top layer off the wound bed with the bandage change.
  - Avoid using corona, nitrofurazone, or any other wound care product on the wound itself unless specifically directed. Most over-the-counter wound care products do little for the actual wound and tend to be caustic to the tissue itself.
  - However, one of the best products to help wounds stay clean and moist is Neosporin (generic is fine). It has good antimicrobial properties while being very gentle on the wound tissue. Apply a small amount to the wound or directly onto the gauze pad.
  
- 2) White roll gauze **\*\*wound bandage\*\***
  - If the wrap is being applied in the first 24-48 hours after a surgical procedure, use a specially packaged and labeled "sterile" white roll gauze (Kerlix or similar gauze roll). Otherwise, apply a non-sterile roll gauze (white gauze is ideal as it will expand as the tissue expands but brown gauze can be substituted).
  - Use light tension when wrapping this layer. This layer is mainly for keeping the non-stick bandage in place and providing an additional layer against dirt and debris!! There is little to no padding underneath this layer, so it is very easy to get it too tight. Therefore, try to avoid

using vet wrap/coflex type material for this layer, but if you must, be very careful to not be too tight!!

3) Thick cotton (roll cotton) or cloth padding **\*\*wound** or **support bandage\*\***

- This is the main layer of padding, and allows for the remaining layers to be tight and provide proper support and compression. Use rolled cotton (single-use) or cloth/quilt wraps that can be washed and reused. Start by using rolled cotton the first several times and develop a feel for how tight you can pull and wrap it without tearing it. That will be a good benchmark for appropriate tension with this layer. If wrapping by yourself, having some small pieces of tape ready will help hold the wrap to itself in place while you're applying the next layer.

4) Brown gauze **\*\*wound** or **support bandage\*\***

- This layer goes directly on top of the cotton roll and will allow for uniform compression/tension over the bulking layer. Wrap with moderate to tight tension overlapping the previous wrap by about 50% of the bandage material width. The thicker the cotton/quilt layer is underneath, the tighter you can get this layer!!
- Traditional "polo wraps" can be substituted for long term bandage use and can be washed and reused.

5) Vet wrap/CoFlex **\*\*wound** or **support bandage\*\***

- With brown gauze beneath, wrap this layer with moderate to tight tension, depending on location and individual needs. Wrap with moderate to tight tension overlapping the previous wrap by about 50% of the bandage material width. The thicker the cotton/quilt layer is underneath, the tighter you can get this layer!!
- If only using a thin layer of cotton or quilt for bulking layer beneath, be very careful!! **This material will constrict and tighten more after being applied.**
- Traditional "polo wraps" can be substituted for long term bandage use and these can be washed and reused.

6) Elastikon **\*\*wound** or **support bandage\*\***

- Wrap a layer or two engaging hair and bandage at the top and bottom of the bandage. Only light tension is needed. This layer serves to

- anchor the bottom of the bandage and keep it from slipping down. It also keeps the top from unraveling or being as easy to bite on.
- Unroll entire roll and then reroll. Do this before trying to apply to leg. Otherwise, it will be too difficult to control the tension of the layer.

### Bandage care guidelines

**\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*** When wrapping each layer, avoid having the bandage material unevenly spaced or uneven tension/compression. Make sure the bandage layers are evenly applied and with the same tension in the front, back, inside and outside. Damage can be caused by gaps in the bandage material itself or from uneven pressure in certain areas.

**\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*** When changing bandages on a wound, always take the time to clean the wound if directed!! In general, a gentle rinse with sterile saline or clean water mixed with diluted betadine solution or chlorhexidine solution (not “scrub”) is sufficient. Only physically scrub the wound area if directed

- Scrubbing can remove healthy new tissue and slow wound healing.
- Unless otherwise instructed, change the bandage every 2-3 days.
- If the bandage becomes excessively dirty or wet, change immediately.
- Check bandage placement at least twice daily. If the bandage shifts, change immediately.
- Take care and time to get each layer as smooth and even as possible.
- Wrinkles and uneven layers can create pressure sores very quickly.