

Keep the bandage or dressings clean and dry THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT

Unless otherwise advised by the vet, box rest is generally required.

The Function of a Bandage: The bandage needs to be secure, comfortable, firm and applied properly. There are many reasons why your horse may require a bandage or dressing including the following:

- To stop self-trauma of a wound while healing.
- To protect a wound from the environment.
- To support a fracture.
- To reduce contamination of a wound.
- To reduce swelling.
- To provide comfort and pain relief whether there is a wound present.



Bandage Problems: Problems can easily occur, so it is important to check the bandage frequently and call for advice if you have any concerns. If any of the following problems occur, please contact us promptly:

- The bandage has become wet or soiled. This reduces ventilation through the bandage and the tissues underneath can become unhealthy and even infected.
- The bandage slips. If this occurs it will no longer offer support, the primary dressing may not cover the wound and pressure becomes uneven. This may cause serious rubs and further wounds to treat.
- Bandage tightening. This can be due to the dressing becoming wet or swelling of the tissues underneath the bandage. You may notice swelling developing just above a bandaged limb. An overly tight bandage can cause severe tissue damage.
- Pressure sores over bony prominences (knee and hock being most common) are also a potential problem, especially if a dressing is required over an extended period. These can become serious wounds if untreated. You may notice your horse unwilling to move the bandaged limb as freely as before if this has happened.
- Damage to the bandage or dressing often due to chewing, kicking, or rubbing. Patient interference can occur because of discomfort so in the first instance check for any reason the bandage has become uncomfortable. This will require your Vet or Vet Nurse to assess. If there is no medical reason as to why your horse is interfering, then applying a foul-tasting solution such as 'Crib-Off' to the outside of the bandage can deter a horse from chewing it.

When changing a bandage always seek help and make sure the horse is safely restrained.

Wear disposable gloves to reduce infection risk and dispose carefully of any soiled dressings.

If you note any of these changes then urgent advice from your Veterinary team should be sought.

Telephone 01297 304007