

## **Practical Bandaging Tips**

Bandaging is used for several reasons and knowing how to do it properly is important for protection, support, comfort and injury purposes. By following a few important guidelines you can improve your bandaging technique and ensure whenever you need to apply a bandage your horse will receive the full benefit.

- Always apply a bandage with even pressure and a 50% overlap between layers
- Bandage from the top and from left to right on nearside and right to left on off side
- Never bandage legs without padding, ideally use veterinary gamgee
- Never restrict circulation. Never restrict movement especially when bandaging at the knee or hock, unless you are bandaging for immobilisation
- For knee or hock wounds use a figure of eight bandage crossing at the front of the knee or hock
- Where appropriate bandage the opposite leg to provide support
- If bandages get wet they can shrink and cause serious damage

## **Reasons for bandaging**

1. Protection
2. Support
3. Compression
4. Immobilisation
5. Strapping

## **Points to Remember**

- A. The bandage must serve the purpose for which it was intended
- B. The bandage must be applied firmly, ensuring it has not been applied too tightly and circulation has not been impaired
- C. It must be as comfortable as possible for the patient

## **A Good Bandage Consists of 3 Layers**

1. Primary e.g. melolin, = non-adhesive dressing
2. Secondary e.g. soffban or cotton wool = absorbent dressing
3. Tertiary e.g. vetrap or co-plus = cohesive bandage

Remember to always keep a selection of bandages and relevant dressings in your first aid kit. Still available at the clinic – Abbey Vets Equine First Aid kits only £24.99!