**The Bandage**

The bandage itself is a piece of material designed to support a medical device of some sort, such as a dressing or splint. It is often made of an elastic material to offer some compression. One innovation welcomed by horse owners was the introduction of Vetrap by 3M in the 1960s. Finally, there was a bandage that offered both elasticity and adhesion. The best part was that Vet-rap sticks to itself, but not to the animal you are bandaging!

Some horse owners remember using duct tape or safety pins to secure a bandage. What an improvement!

It is the application of the bandage that causes trouble for many novices who wrap it too loose, too tight, or uneven. Too loose defeats the purpose, because it will fall out of place with movement and perhaps cause problems for the area on which it rests. Wrapping too tightly can cause bandage bows (swelling in the peritendinous tissues) and cut off circulation. Finally, wrapping unevenly can apply too much pressure in one area and not enough in another, allowing fluid to pool in the area wrapped loosely (much like your ankles swell above your socks when you fly).

Reference: <http://www.thehorse.com/articles/18918/bandaging-horses>