**Bandaging Layers & Materials**

In order to correctly bandage a horse’s leg, you must first be familiar with the various bandaging layers and their function, as well as the appropriate materials for each layer. Generally speaking, a leg bandage should always consist of at least two layers (padding and bandage), with wound bandages requiring a minimum third layer (wound dressing).

*Layer 1: Wound Dressing* – If a wound is present, the primary or contact layer should be a wound dressing. The appropriate dressing may vary depending on the type of wound and stage of healing, but the most commonly used wound dressing is a sterile non-adherent gauze pad.

*Layer 2: Padding* – The intermediate bandaging layer consists of soft, absorbent padding material to cushion and protect the limb, and to help evenly distribute pressure applied by the bandage. Roll cotton, sheet cotton, and combine cotton (also known as Gamgee™) are excellent padding materials, as are commercial cotton or flannel “pillow” or quilted wraps, which can be washed and reused.

*Layer 3: Bandage* – The third and outermost bandaging layer consists of the bandage itself, which secures the other layers and provides compression. There are many choices of bandage materials, including fleece, cotton, and polyester knit bandages with Velcro® fasteners, as well as flexible cohesive bandages, such as 3M Vetrap™, PowerFlex®, and Co-Flex®, which are frequently collectively referred to as “vet wrap.” Whatever material you choose, make sure the bandage is between four and six inches wide, as a narrower bandage can result in pressure points and general constriction of the limb.

References: <https://www.horsejournals.com/horse-care/illness-injury/prevention/equine-first-aid-bandaging-horse>