

Specialty Bandages

3 reasons
to use

TAIL BANDAGES

(A tail bandage is used to protect the hair of the dock during shipping, to contain the tail hairs during breeding, foaling, or body clipping, or to shape the hair of the dock during grooming. A tail wrap can be also be used to keep the skirt of the tail clean, or to protect a braided tail before a show.

Tail wraps may be cotton stockinette or polyester knit bandages, or synthetic crepe bandages (such as VetRap). Elastic bandages (Ace® bandages) may also be used, but with caution, as they can easily be applied tightly enough to impair circulation and cause tissue damage. An old elastic bandage which has lost most of its elasticity through use and washing is safer for tail bandaging.

Tail wraps should be fastened with Velcro, pins, or tape applied in spiral strips. Do not use fabric tapes or string ties, found on some older types of bandages, or any type of fastener which creates a continuous ring of pressure around the dock. These can impair the circulation and cause serious damage to the dock.

CAUTION: Tail bandages must be used carefully to avoid damage to the tail. They should only be applied for an hour or so, or for shipping, for a few hours. A tail wrap that is put on too tightly, fastened incorrectly, or left in place too long can impair the circulation, causing discomfort, swelling, loss of hair, and even gangrene, which could require amputation of the tail.

A braided tail should be protected with a tail wrap when the horse is not showing. Braided tails should not be left in overnight, whether wrapped or not; the braided hairs will break off, spoiling the appearance of the tail.

WHAT YOU NEED

Tail bandage: A stretchy bandage such as a cotton or polyester knitted track bandage, elastic crepe bandage, or 4-inch elastic (Ace) bandage.

CAUTION: An elastic bandage should only be left on for half an hour.

Fastener: Velcro closure (on bandage), pins, or strips of tape.

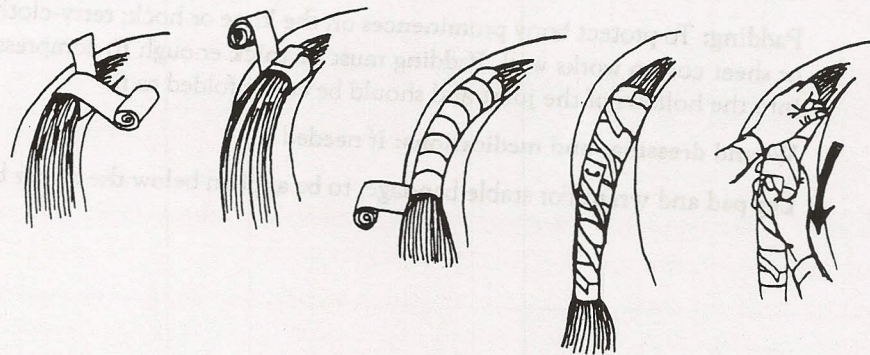
PROCEDURE

1. Dampen the tail hair slightly.

CAUTION: Do not wet the bandage, as it may shrink and damage the tail.

2. Start the bandage close to the top of the tail. Wrap around once to secure end of bandage, then wrap up to the very top of the tail.
3. Wrap downward to the end of the dock, then upward to end of bandage.
4. Fasten with Velcro closure, pins, or spiral strips of tape, but not tightly enough to cause an indentation, and not in a continuous ring. When an elastic bandage is applied only for a short time, it can be fastened by tucking the end inside one of the wraps.

Grooming tail bandage.



To remove the bandage from an unbraided tail, grasp the bandage firmly with the fingers hooked over the top of the bandage on both sides, and pull straight down. For a braided tail, unwrap the bandage.