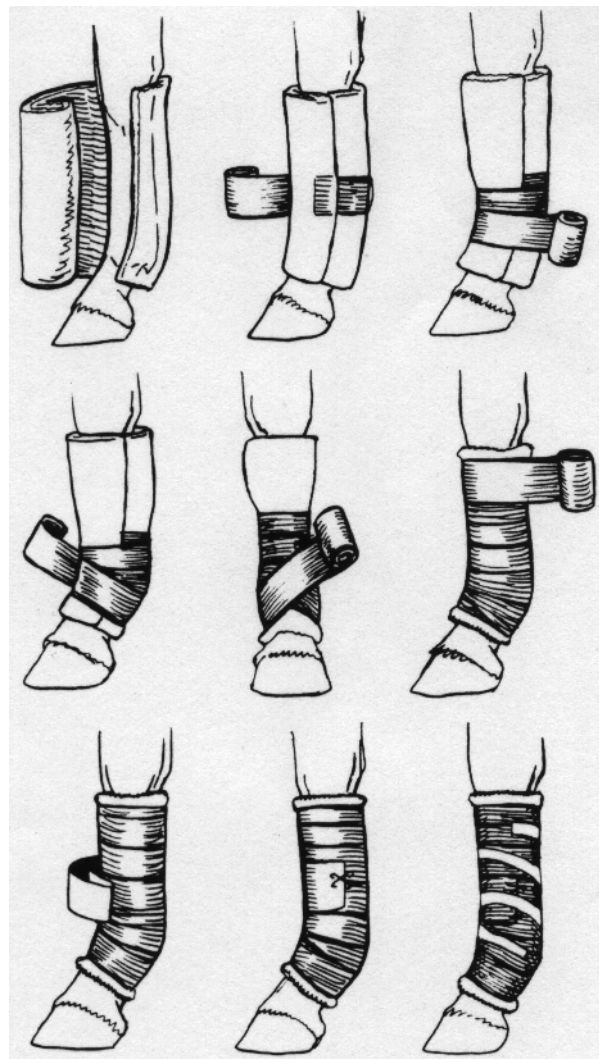


STABLE BANDAGES

Stable bandages are used for protection in the stable, to prevent swelling of the legs after hard work, for warmth, and sometimes to treat injuries or cover a wound dressing. When applying stable bandages, always bandage the legs in pairs: both front legs, both hind legs, or all four. If one leg is bandaged and the other is not, the unbandaged leg may be stressed and may swell. Stable bandages must be removed and reset at least every twelve hours (morning and night).

A stable bandage is put on like a shipping bandage, but it ends just below the fetlock joint. It must be snug enough to compress the padding around the tendons and other structures of the leg. The pressure must be evenly distributed over the entire bandage, and not too tight (you should be able to slip two fingers inside the finished bandage). The bandage must be run in the same direction as the leg pad.

Stable bandages can be flannel, polyester knit, or cotton, 10 to 12 feet long. The leg pads should reach from just below the knee or hock to just below the fetlock joint, usually 14 to 16 inches long depending on the size of the horse.



Steps in Applying a Stable Bandage