

Applying a Head Bandage



Disclaimer

A series of booklets has been developed by the Clinical Skills Lab team (staff, recent graduates and students) from the School of Veterinary Sciences, University of Bristol, UK.

Please note:

- Each booklet illustrates one way to perform a skill and it is acknowledged that there are often other approaches. Before using the booklets students should check with their university or college whether the approach illustrated is acceptable in their context or whether an alternative method should be used.
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Equipment list: Head Bandage

Equipment for this station:

- An assistant
- A dog model
- Cotton wool
- Padding bandage e.g. Orthoband, Soffban
- Conforming bandage e.g. Knit-Fix, Easifix
- Cohesive bandage e.g. Vet Wrap, Co-Flex
- Dressing scissors

Considerations for this station:

- Bandaging material is expensive. Please re-roll and re-use materials.

Anyone working in the Clinical Skills Lab must read the 'CSL_I01 Induction' and agree to abide by the 'CSL_I00 House Rules' & 'CSL_I02 Lab Area Rules'

Please inform a member of staff if equipment is damaged or about to run out.



Clinical Skills: Head Bandage



1

Work in pairs. One person applies the bandage, one person is the assistant. Ask the assistant to restrain the dog. If there is a wound, it is important to wear gloves.

Select all equipment and open any packaging before starting (in the Clinical Skills Lab please reuse materials and re-roll bandages after practising).



2

Fold one piece of cotton wool around the ear pinna, so that the tip of the ear sits within the fold. Position the ear on top of the head.



3

Start with a padding layer. Start at the top of the head, over the cotton wool.



4

Pass the bandage under the neck and up in front of the free ear – take care not to go too close to the eye.

While bandaging, the roll must be on the top of the bandage, to ensure even tension.



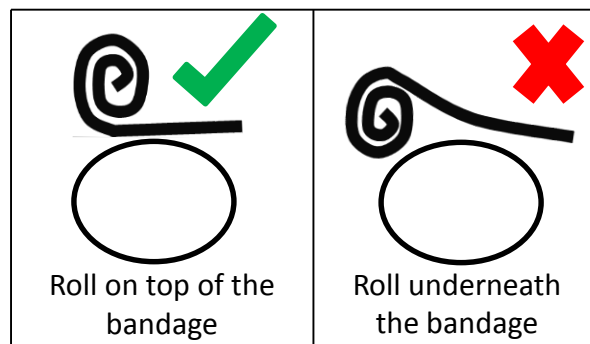
5

Pass the bandage over the top of the head, and under the neck again.



6

This time, pass the bandage behind the free ear.



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7
Continue bandaging around the head, alternating between going in front of the free ear and behind the free ear.

Finish the bandage on the top of the head.



8
Check that the opening to the ear canal is still visible, and that the eyes are not affected by the bandage.



9
Start the conforming layer. Follow the same pattern as with the padding layer – start at the top of the head, pass the bandage under the neck, up in front of the free ear, under the neck, up behind the free ear. Keep checking the bandage does encroach on the eyes.



10
Continue the pattern until the bandage has been passes around the head approximately 4-5 times.

The edge of the conforming bandage should align with the edge of the padding layer.



11
Finish the bandage on the top of the head.



12
Start the cohesive layer. The bandage **MUST** be stretched out before applying it – if the bandage is on too tight, the animal may have difficulty breathing!



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13



Follow the same pattern as for the previous two layers – start at the top and then pass the bandage under the neck.

Remember, the edge of the cohesive bandage should align with the edge of the previous two layers and cover both so that the lower layers no longer show or protrude.

14



Pass the bandage up in front of the free ear, making sure the bandage does not cover the eye...

15



Under the neck...

16



Up behind the free ear, over the head, and round under the neck again.

17



After the bandage has been passed around the head approximately 4 times, finish the bandage on the top of the head.

18



It is now very important to check the bandage thoroughly.

Check the tension – can you put one finger between the bandage and the animal, around all edges?

Are the eyes affected by the bandage at all?

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19



Can the animal open its mouth easily?

20



Can the animal move its head in all directions, to a reasonable degree?

21



Check the tension around each edge.

22



Is the opening to the ear canal visible? This ensures the animal can still hear from at least the one ear!

23



Finally, write 'EAR' on the bandage in the position of the underlying ear pinna, so that it's position is clear to everyone.

This should hopefully prevent anyone accidentally cutting the ear when the bandage is removed.



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Resetting the station: Head Bandage

1. Remove all bandages from the models by unwrapping them; do not cut the bandage off.
2. Re-roll all the bandaging material. It can and will be re-used.
3. Place all the materials, bandages, cotton wool, scissors etc. in the tray or box on the table.

Station ready for the next person:



Please inform a member of staff if equipment is damaged or about to run out.



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I wish I'd known: Head Bandage

- See the 'Oops' dog station ('CSL_B05 Bandaging Oops') for examples of what can happen if a bandage is too loose or too tight or you forget to write 'EAR' on the bandage.
- Many problems can be avoided by thoroughly checking the bandage once you have placed it, and by regularly checking the animal whilst it has the bandage