Veterinary Science
Preparatory Training for the Veterinary Assistant
Floron C. Faries, Jr., DVM, MS
Applying Bandages

Floron C. Faries, Jr., DVM, MS
Objectives

- Discuss reasons to bandage or not bandage patients for medical treatments
- Describe types of bandages
- Describe techniques for applying bandages
Why Bandage

- Not usually needed
- Applies pressure
- Support
- Medication
- Protection
  - Contamination
  - Irritants
Common bandage sites
- Lower limbs
  - Below knee and hock

Difficult bandage sites
- Head
- Upper body
Precautions

- Tightness
  - Discomfort
  - Lameness
  - Circulatory interference
    - Pressure necrosis

- Cleanliness
  - Dry
  - Clean
- Re-bandaging
  - Clean
  - Re-medicate
  - Promotes healing
- Bandage wound complications
  - Humid, warm, and rain weather
    - Secondary infections
  - Excess joint movement
    - Causes tissue irritation
    - Tissue granulation (proud flesh)
Non-bandage wound complications

- Irritation with tissue granulation (proud flesh)
  - Over-cleaning – water pressure, medications
  - Feeding flies
  - Tail rubbing rear legs
  - Grass rubbing lower legs
  - Self-licking
  - Self-rubbing
Types of Bandages

- Wound
- Pressure
Wound Bandage Supplies

- Use
  - Cover wounds
- Padding
  - Gauze
  - Cotton
  - Disposable diaper
- Top wrap
  - Roll gauze
  - Elastic wrap
  - Vet wrap
  - Possibly tape
Applying Gauze Bandage

- Apply medication
- Apply gauze pad
- Hold pad and wrap gauze roll
  - May possibly have to twist wrap
  - Keep snug, but not too tight
  - Split gauze to form strips and tie
- Tape above and below
Technique for Applying Bandage on Dog’s Foot

- **Step one**
  - Be sure that skin and hair coat are dry.
    - Moisture under a bandage will damage skin.

- **Step two**
  - Apply medicated ointments or salve to the wound area.
  - Put medications on the gauze, especially if the wound is tender.
Step three
- Place a layer of gauze/sponge directly over the wound site.

Step four
- Apply a layer of cushion.
  - Cast padding, roll cotton
  - To keep the bandage from getting too tight
- **Step five**
  - Apply a layer of stretch gauze.
    - To hold cotton in place

- **Step six**
  - Apply an outer covering.
    - Medical tape or stretchable wrap
    - To protect the under layers from wear and moisture
Step seven

- Apply tape to top of bandage and on hair coat to prevent slipping.
  - Apply moderate pressure to ensure that tape sticks well.
Pressure Bandage

- Uses
  - Control bleeding
  - Reduce/minimize swelling
  - Provide support
- Padding
  - 1-2 inches thick
    - Cotton
    - Quilting
    - Anything smooth and moldable
- Elastic wrap
- Snug at base and looser at top
Rule of Thumb

Don’t bandage unless absolutely necessary!