



**Lodi Veterinary Care™**  
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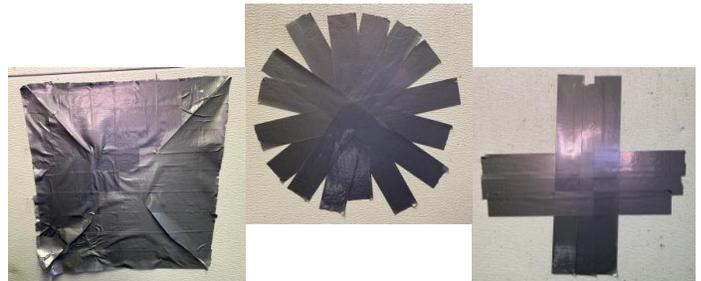
## How to Apply a Hoof Poultice

Supplies you will need:

- Hoof pick
- Firm brush (optional)
- Animalintex poultice or similar
  - Our preference is the Animalintex 8 x 16" poultice. Other hoof poultices or even diapers can also work
- Vetrax
- Duct tape
- Bandage Scissors
- Water
- Epsom salts (optional)
- Elastikon (optional)

Indications for applying a hoof poultice: Your veterinarian may recommend a hoof poultice if a hoof abscess is drained or suspected based on clinical signs and hoof tester sensitivity. Other causes of lameness should be ruled out before treating as an abscess and the foot should be carefully examined for nails, stones etc. For best results, the shoe should be removed.

**1.** Gather all necessary supplies. Make a square of duct tape by creating a weave pattern about 15" x 15" on a wall or other firm surface. Cut in from each corner about 6". (Alternative patterns include cross or "snowflake" work equally as well). From the poultice pad, cut a piece roughly the size of the bottom of the sole.



**2.** Pick the hoof and clean thoroughly with a firm brush. Ideally soak the hoof for 15-20 min in warm water with Epsom salts (optional). Ensure the water level is covering at least 3cm of haired skin above the coronary band. A rubber feed tub works well for this.

**3.** Keep the foot as clean as possible between soaking and wrapping. Wet the poultice and place on sole with the shiny plastic side showing. Secure to the hoof and lower pastern region with vetrax.





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**4.** Place duct tape sheet centered on hoof. Fold each side over to adhere to the hoof. Using a duct tape roll, encircle the hoof a couple times.

**5.** Place the foot back on the ground. Using bandage scissors, cut down from the top of the bandage until you reach the level of the hoof. Repeat in another location. This ensures the bandage will not be too tight around the coronary band, restricting circulation.



**6.** Optional: Apply a band of Elastikon at the top of the bandage.

As long as you're sure it isn't too tight around the coronary band, the bandage can remain in place for several days. Additional water can be added from the top if desired. Alternatively, remove the bandage, soak the hoof, and replace daily. Discuss with your veterinarian when a recheck exam should be performed if lameness has not resolved. When lameness resolves, continue to poultice for 2 additional days to prevent recurrence.