

Large Bird Bandaging Lab

WRNC Symposium 2024 – Sunny Cooper

Content credit Milan Starr

I. Review Bird Anatomy

- Wings
 - o humerus, radius, ulna, metacarpals
- Legs
 - o femur, tibiotarsus (TBT), fibula, tarsometatarsus (TMT), feet

II. Bandaging Review

A. Purpose of a bandage

- Immobilize a fracture or dislocation
- Protect a wound or suture line
- Keep exposed bone or tendon from drying out
- Provide a protective barrier for wound healing and tissue growth
- Stop bleeding
- Support a limb and protect pin post-op
- Prevent self-induced damage (drooped wing or damaged wrist)
- Reduce pressure on foot

B. Bandaging materials

Below is a list of the most common bandaging materials we use categorized by purpose. Be sure you can identify each of them.

Figure 8 with or without body

Vet wrap
Cast padding
Medical or duct tape
Masking tape
Velcro wrap

Splinting and boots

Vet wrap
Cast padding
Foam shoe
Wire hanger
Pliers and wire cutters
Medical or duct tape

Wing Bumpers

Telfa
Tegaderm
Gauze Padding
Corn pads

III. Wing Wraps

A. Figure 8

- Fracture of the ulna, radius, or metacarpals
- Dislocated elbow
- Significant wing droop
- Requires a body wrap if the fracture or dislocation is above the elbow

- B. Body wrap
 - Used paired with a figure 8
 - Fractures of the humerus, clavicle, or coracoid
 - Dislocated shoulder
 - Crosses the center of a bird's keel
 - Does not incorporate opposite wing

- C. Velcro wrap
 - An alternative to a figure 8 in some cases

Section IV Exercises

Your instructor will review the following bandaging exercises with you. Try each one on your own to practice. You may need to remove bandages from the previous section.

1. Apply a figure 8 wrap
2. Apply a figure 8 with a body wrap
3. Apply "chew tabs" to your figure 8
4. Check your neighbor's wraps

IV. Leg Splinting

- A. Leg splint
 - Fractures of the TBT or TMT
 - Bandage with extra padding
 - Foam shoe
 - Wire hangers on the lateral and ventral aspects of the leg
 - Tape sharp edges
 - Splint in the leg's natural standing position
 - Radiographs pre- and post-splint

- B. Foam shoe
 - Relieve pressure on foot of a splinted leg
 - Pool noodle of appropriate size
 - Fractures of a digit, bumblefoot, or other wounds to the plantar surface

Section V Exercises

Your instructor will review the following bandaging exercises with you. Try each one on your own to practice. You may need to remove bandages from the previous section.

1. Apply a leg splint:
 - Pad and wrap the bird's leg
 - Shape wire hangers to fit the bird's leg
 - Cover the ends of the wires with tape
 - Secure the wires to the bird's leg

2. Apply a foam shoe to opposite foot

VI. Conclusion & Things to Remember

Bandages should be adapted to fit the specific bird. Consider the bird's behavior. Will the bird tolerate the type of bandage?

Always consider range of motion, comfort, and practicality when bandaging a bird. Are you setting the bird up for success with the bandage or wrap you are applying?

Notes
