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HOW TO APPLY A FOOT POULTICE

The most common reason for poulticing a horse's foot is an abscess, which is a collection of pus within a cavity in the hoof and is one of the most common cause of acute lameness in the horse. Hot tubbing for 10-15 mins before a poultice is used is a good way of helping draw pus from the foot. Epsom salts mixed into the water will help soften the area to allow the pus to burst, drain and flush the cavity. A poultice can be applied wet or dry, usually until the abscess has drains we recommend a hot, wet poultice. If your horse is shod, the shoe should be removed before a poultice is applied.

Materials required:

- Animalintex/poultice material
- Hot or cooled boiling water
- Soffban (soft padding bandage)
- Vet wrap
- Duct tape or Elastoplast



One of the most difficult things with applying a poultice is that you are trying to do it on your own, so if possible get someone to pass you things or hold the leg up for you. Be prepared, so open all bandage materials and have your square of duct tape close by so once you have applied your bandage you can stick it to the bottom without getting your bandage dirty.

1. Make a square of duct tape on the wall by tearing strips and overlapping them so you have a 2 layer square. The size will depend on how big your horses foot is but it's always better to overestimate.
2. Cut a square of poultice large enough to cover the affected area.
3. Make sure the foot is clean, so apply poultice after hot tubbing or use a brush to remove any dirt.



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- Using hot water (38°C) soak the poultice, ring off the excess water, place over the affected area with the shiny Always have the plastic side away from the foot.



- Using the soft padding bandage wrap the foot, encasing the poultice to hold in place.



- Repeat using the vet wrap bandage, this needs to be done fairly snug to hold in place.



- Place the duct tape square over the bottom of the bandaged foot. Alternatively use elastoplast bandage around the foot.



A hoof poultice should be changed every 24hrs unless instructed otherwise by your vet

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