

Latitude 36 Mobile Veterinary Services

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Thunder Wrap

Everyone has equipment and supplies hiding out in tack rooms and trunks. We have found a use for one thing that most horse owners use only occasionally: leg wraps.

A friend of ours has one of those dogs who is terrified during a storm or when there is any loud noise like a gunshot. In desperation, we got out some old leg wraps and wound them around her chest during one such thunderstorm and discovered that this helped calm her significantly. She still pants and is nervous, but she does much better with her "Thunder Wrap" on than she used to before we started doing this.

If you have one of these frightened animals, this is surely worth a try. Let us know how it works for you, and if you have any other ideas about using equipment that is just hanging around.

Please scroll down to the next page for photos and instructions...

Applying a Thunder Wrap, using horse leg wraps:



Take the leg wrap and wind it firmly around the dog's chest, starting just behind the shoulder blades.

The snugger the wrap, the better it works to calm the dog's nervous system.

Continue wrapping down the body to the end of the rib cage, and then work your way back up with any remaining bandage.

Secure the end of the bandage by tucking it under the last layer of wrap.

If necessary, apply a second wrap over the top of the first.

The goal is to cover as much of the dog's chest as possible without interfering with the front legs or applying any pressure to the belly.

Secure the end of the second wrap as you did the first, by tucking its end under the previous layer.

When you're done, the dog should be able to move around without the wrap slipping, but be comforted and calmed by the firm, even pressure provided by the wrap.

Model: The Splendid Miss Tiger Lilly, with cameo appearance by Underdog. Text and Photos: Kim D. Gemeinhardt and Christine M. King. All rights reserved.