

Referring Fractures

When referring fractures, whether it be P1 fractures in Standardbreds, condylar metatarsal fractures, or sesamoid fractures, the most important responsibility of the referring veterinarian is to ensure that a proper Robert Jones Bandage is applied to the leg prior to transport.

The following are a few important points to remember:

- Keep the horse confined to a stable or yard of similar size prior to transport
- Apply a Robert Jones Bandage
 - Use **at least** 2 x 500g rolls of cotton wool and use vetwrap or similar to compress.
 - The joints above and below the fracture site should be immobilized (the hoof included if the fracture is located distally ie. P1 fractures).
 - The finished bandage should make the leg look the same diameter from top to bottom, and sound like a ripe melon when flicked with a finger.
- **Avoid** sedation, pain relief or nerve blocks. These treatments increase the possibility of catastrophic fracture breakdown, especially if the horse is transported.