



Equine Wound Care

Lacerations to the Limb

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Don't Panic!**
Remain calm and keep your horse calm.
- **Place your horse** in a quiet, well-lit area until your veterinarian is available for consultation.
- **Be Prepared!**
Have access to your veterinarians contact information.
- **Have a well-stocked first aid kit** ready for emergencies.
- **Be able to identify** location, type, and dimensions of wound to your veterinarian.
- **If the wound is bleeding profusely** apply direct pressure to the wound. **Do Not Wipe the Wound!**
- **Do not apply a tourniquet**
- **Do not cold hose** a wound.

Emergency First Aid

If you have been around horses long enough you have experienced both minor and major wounds. Horses are naturally inquisitive animals. They have an innate ability to run or flee when frightened leading to the majority of equine wounds. Most wounds appear worse than they really are. Large superficial wounds are rarely life-threatening, whereas, wounds over joints and tendons are often more serious than they appear.

Be Prepared

One of the easiest things you can do as a horse owner dealing with equine wounds is to be prepared and have a first aid kit available. Kits can be bought preassembled or you can make your own. We can help you make a kit for your farm if you would like



Degloving Injury to the knee of a performance horse. Although it appears superficial, it actually involved two the knee joints.

assistance. They can be assembled and stored in plastic storage tubs in your barn and ready for use when your horse gets injured. Items we liked to



Degloving Injury to the forelimb of a yearling on pasture.

keep in our first aid kits include:

- Your veterinarians contact information
- Digital Thermometer and stethoscope
- Roll Cotton
- Self-adhesive bandages (Vetwrap/ Elastikon)
- Clean Towels
- Scissors
- Duct Tape
- Flashlight

Emergency First Aid

It is imperative to keep your horse calm and quiet. If you can walk your horse without worsening the in-

jury, walk your horse to an enclosed area such as a stall or smaller paddock. Be very cautious around your horse because a horse in pain is unpredictable and can be dangerous.

If the wound is profusely bleeding, apply direct pressure to the wound with a clean cotton or towel. If it saturates with blood do not remove it, just apply a new one to the top. Do not wipe the blood repeatedly from the wound. Removing the bandage or repetitive wiping will disrupt the blood clots which are forming. It is unadvisable to apply a tourniquet to control bleeding. It is also unadvisable to cold hose the wound. By applying a cold hose, you can potentially contaminate or force foreign material deeper into the tissues, which will delay healing. Once you have the horse under control, take time to examine the wound and contact your veterinarian. When contacting your veterinarian, be able to identify the anatomical location, size, and the type of wound. Wounds over joints and tendons can appear small and irrelevant, but actually can be more serious. Large superficial wounds, which bleed profusely, may not be very bad at all and only appear major.