

First Aid Kit:

Vetwrap bandage

Gauze

Telfa Pads

Syringe - large

Scissors

Stethoscope

Thermometer

Wound cream/gel

Poultice

Epsom Salt

Silver tape

Carrier bag

Tweezers

Sterile water/saline

Lubricant

Betadine

Wire cutters

Flashlight

Sterile gloves

Twitch

wound antiseptic

Medications to keep on hand:

Banamine

Bute

Probiotics

Ulcergard

liniment

Tips:

Dont place an item in your first aid kit if you dont know how to use it

Do put expiration dates on items

Dont let your first aid kit be a place where people raid for extra supplies

Dressing basic wounds:

1. Rinse the wound well. Dirt and debris---including hair, rope fibers, fragments of metal or wood, or dead tissue---can create chronic inflammation and infection that inhibits proper healing and encourages growth of proud flesh. Use Saline Solution. If you don't have any saline at hand, water from a hose can do the job. In fact, the cool water has the added benefit of helping

to reduce swelling and inflammation. Inspect the area closely to make sure it is completely clean.

2.Apply appropriate treatments. Flushing a clean wound with a dilute antiseptic wash, such as Betadine, can reduce the risk of infection even further. You may apply a wound ointment. At the outset, avoid heavy, greasy ointments ---these are more effective for protecting tissues during the later stages of healing. At any stage of healing, your best bet is to stick to products labeled for use on horses.

3.Bandage, if appropriate. Apart from superficial scrapes, almost any wound on the lower leg will benefit from bandaging to keep it clean while it heals. You'll want to first cover the exposed tissue with non-stick gauze or other wound dressings that won't adhere to the fragile healing tissues. Wounds above the level of the elbow or stifle can often be left open to heal; the relative immobility of the horse's torso means the healing tissues won't be disturbed as often, and these areas are likely to remain cleaner. You'll want to change the bandage at least daily while healing progresses; more frequent changes may be necessary if the gauze is getting soaked with exudates.

4.Keep your horse still. Too much motion in a healing wound pulls at the tissues and can prevent the skin from closing over it. Bandaging will help keep the limb still as your horse heals, and for larger wounds your veterinarian may recommend splinting. Keep your horse in his stall or in a small corral or round pen until the wound is stable.

5.Seek help quickly if healing stalls. Even with the best of care, some wounds may develop proud flesh. Call your veterinarian immediately if you start to detect rounded, bumpy tissue in a healing wound. In addition to curbing the growth of proud flesh, it's important to rule out similar-looking conditions, such as ulcerated sarcoids or various fungal, bacterial or parasitic infections.

Bandaging:

1. Wrap the rolled gauze just above the wound, pulling it just tightly enough to remain in place but not so hard as to stretch out the weave. Make sure it lies smoothly and that each layer overlies the preceding layer by about 50 percent. The highest risk of injury to healing tissues come from shifting or slippage of this gauze layer.
2. When you reach the level of the wound, place the gauze pad or other dressing over the exposed tissue, holding it carefully to ensure it lies flat with no wrinkles. Then continue with wrapping the gauze roll down the leg to cover the dressing and extend beyond its lower edge.

3. Wrap the cotton padding around the leg, taking care that it lies flat.
4. Apply an additional layer of rolled gauze to help hold the padding in place as you continue wrapping.
5. Start the self-adhesive wrap about a half-inch below the top of the padding and work downward, taking care to overlap it by about half with each turn and to prevent it from bunching up or wrinkling. Also leaving about a half-inch of padding exposed at the bottom, continue wrapping back up the leg for a total of two layers. You want to finish with a smooth, snug covering.
6. To help secure the bandage more firmly, apply two or three rounds of elastic bandaging tape at both the top and bottom, overlapping both the horse's leg and the bandaging material by two or three inches.

