

HEALING WOUNDS

Due to the horse's inquisitive nature, a well developed flight response, their large size and the fact that they are commonly confined in areas with potential obstacles, it's not surprising that accidents happen. And, some horses seem to be more accident prone than others.

Wounds can range in severity from a simple graze, cut or scrape to a puncture wound or laceration which can involve large areas of the body.

At a glance a wound can be deceiving. Large wounds bleed profusely and may not be as bad as they first seem if they only involve superficial structures. In contrast, a small wound near a joint or tendon can be much worse causing serious complications. Given the choice, it's better to be faced with a terrific gash or tear than a puncture wound that could prove to be deadly.

Whether to call the vet or not will depend on the wound. Where injuries are serious - or where any doubt exists - a veterinary examination would be recommended as soon as is possible.

Hydrotherapy

Healing wounds requires inflammation and the micro-organic cause of infection to be eliminated. Cold water hydrotherapy complements conventional treatment and

speeds up the healing process.



**SPA TREATMENT
FOR A SEVERE
BARBED WIRE
INJURY
0 → 101 DAYS**

High levels of salts used in Spa therapy act as a poultice and have a natural healing effect on wounds. As well as being salty, the water is chlorinated and filtered for hygiene.

Here at Flawborough, all wounds are examined by a vet before commencing any treatment and medication is administered as directed.

Horses with fresh wounds have Spa treatment and their wounds dressed daily. Older wounds with proud flesh require a different approach. Here the wounds need to be debrided – removing the excess flesh - to try to keep the wound flat and allow closure of the edges of the skin more quickly. If infection is present with such older wounds, again daily Spa treatment will do much to speed up the healing process.

Sometimes the nature of the injury will mean that bandaging is not possible. Examples of such injuries would include where the bone or tendon sheath may be exposed. Here the Spa 'comes into its own' with speed of healing being paramount so that no further infection occurs.

Vet Charlotte Murray BVSc. MRVCS comments:

"We have seen an outstanding improvement in the speed of wound healing once Spa therapy has been initiated. This is specially observed in non healing wounds and wounds in awkward places such as knees, hocks and areas at the back of pastern. We often recommend Spa treatment to aid wound healing"