

*First Aid Product Descriptions and Use:*

*First aid wound care involves the immediate care of an injured animal until a veterinarian can assess and treat the condition. It is not intended to replace qualified veterinarian care but to provide products and information that will assist the horse owner to properly treat a wound until veterinarian care can be accessed.*

*Our clients are referred to “Hands-On Horse Care” by Karen Hayes, DVM, MS for a comprehensive manual that assists horse owners with the immediate care of their horse. It is the responsibility of each and every horse owner to be informed as to the appropriate application of first aid products.*

*Wound care steps are basic:*

- 1. Wound is bleeding a lot-Stop the bleeding with a compression (pressure) bandage.*
- 2. Wound is not bleeding profusely, skin gaping or showing exposed white tissue, showing amber fluid or involves the eyes-Remove debris with water, saline or wound wash, treat with appropriate antiseptic/ antibiotic ointment; use appropriate bandage if required and allow wound to heal. Call your veterinarian for further assistance.*

*Note: Recent research indicates that hydrogen peroxide as a wound cleanser, may harm healthy tissue. Therefore, we advise caution when using Hydrogen Peroxide on an open wound. Hydrogen Peroxide may be helpful for cleaning puncture wounds to the hoof, provided that the wound is washed with saline after the Hydrogen Peroxide is applied. Please consult your veterinarian for information on safe applications.*

**Antibiotic:** agent that destroys bacteria but has no effect on viruses. Used to prevent targeted bacteria from gathering/multiplying at the wound site.

**Antiseptic:** agent applied to living tissue to destroy or inhibit the growth and development of microorganisms. Unlike specific target antibiotics, antiseptics have a broader range of activity. This includes bacteria, fungi, viruses and protozoa. Commonly used antiseptic agents include povidone iodine compounds (PVP-I) such as Betadine™, chlorhexidine and alcohol. Commercial wound wash formulations (Saline) also indicate some reduction of bacteria with use. Best used within 3 hours of the injury, to help to heal cuts, scrapes, rope burns, saddle and harness sores by reducing harmful bacteria. Antiseptic uses vary. Antiseptic scrubs should only be used on intact skin for prep. Antiseptic solutions are used for reduction and prevention of infection in open wounds (PVP-I compounds).

**Adhesive Cloth Tape:** also known as athletic tape, cloth tape has a porous construction with an adhesive backing. Used to anchor gauze roll or other tapes that may break loose with movement.

**Alcohol Wipes:** antiseptic swab saturated with 70% isopropyl alcohol for cleaning and sanitizing instruments. Can be used to clean skin and scrapes.

**Animalintex Pad:** highly versatile wound pad impregnated multi-layered poultice that aids in wound healing. Can be used as a hot or cold wet poultice or dry wound dressing to stem bleeding and absorb fluids. Cut to size and use remainder at a later date.

**Bloodstop Powder:** used to stop excessive bleeding. Consult veterinarian immediately for severe wounds, deep or puncture wounds.

**Betadine Solution:** a topical antiseptic microbicide skin and wound cleanser containing povidone-iodine in an aqueous solution. Used to prevent bacterial infection of minor lacerations and abrasions.

**Braces:** mixtures applied routinely following workouts. High alcohol content to ‘pull fluid’ out of tissues and prevent pulling of tendon sheaths.

**Burn Gel:** a combination of water and natural plant extracts, melaleuca alternifolia (tea tree oil) applied topically that provides immediate pain relief by cooling the injured tissue and soothing the skin.

**Chlorhexidine Solution:** a topical cleaning solution for use on horses for application to superficial cuts, abrasions or insect stings. Use diluted for wound cleaning. Comparable to Nolvasan.

**Clear Eyes:** for treatment of irritation due to dust, dirt and wind.

**Cold Packs:** apply cold pack (5 min. on/15min. off) to swelling, bruises, sprains, strains and muscle soreness. Prevents deterioration of both healthy and injured tissue due to swelling.

**Cool Cast Bandage:** offers supportive, lower leg care to help reduce inflammation, swelling and tenderness associated with bowed tendons, stocking up (edema), inflammation related to arthritis and tendonitis.

**Compression Bandage:** compression bandages are used to stop bleeding or they can help to immobilize or to support the limb. They are also used to reduce/prevent swelling. Compression bandages should not be used in acute, infectious, inflammatory conditions. If infection is not under control, compression may force the infection deeper into the wound.

**Corona Ointment:** compound used to treat minor skin injuries. Contains 50% lanolin for maximum moisture maintenance; also has an antiseptic component intended to assist in the reduction of microorganisms.

**Cotton-tipped Applicators:** used for the application of ointments and creams for the treatment of wounds.

**Cotton Wool Roll:** highly absorbent, protective dressing used to contain drainage and fluid discharge from a wound. Cotton wool or non-adherent cotton is best. The bandaging sequence is- cotton wool or gamgee™/ roll gauze /vetrap™. Maintain EVEN pressure that is not too tight. Ensure that outside wrap has no folds and is smooth against the inner cotton bandage.

**Cut-heal Aerosol:** heals from the “inside out”, eliminates and prevents proud flesh and extensive scarring with minimal hair loss. Does not sting or burn on application.

**DMSO:** dimethyl sulfoxide is a product that exhibits extensive solvent properties. Used in equine first aid to calm swelling and relieve inflammation. Caution must be applied when using this product as it’s quick penetrating properties may cause additional penetration of other substances. DMSO should not be mixed with other substances, used on wet skin, or used too quickly on a fresh injury- healing action increases blood flow to the injured site which may increase swelling. Use with **gloves on!!**

**Duct Tape:** used to wrap the hoof after being treated for puncture or other wound.

**Epsom Salts:** used as a foot soak for drawing out pus and drying abscesses. Add to warm water at a ratio of 1 cup Epsom salts to 1 gallon water. **Caution:** punctures can be a serious threat to horse health, consult a veterinarian before removing objects or treating a puncture wound!

**Equisport™ Bandage:** an equine athletic support bandage for limb soft tissue and bone injuries. The Equisport™ bandage has 4.5 times the elasticity of Vetrap™ tape. Provides higher compression and support when application technique is correct. Used also as a rundown bandage.

**Eye Wash:** used to reduce irritation caused by dust, foreign material in the eye. Always use extreme caution when applying any flush to the eye. Horses can move suddenly without warning. Hold eyelid open and flush with wash.

**Gamgee Padding:** cotton padding with a low-adherent surface so it won’t stick to wound; highly absorbent and strong. Supports and protects fetlocks, hocks and tendons; helps protect legs from injury; keeps muscles/tendons warm during exercise/competition.

**Gauze Bandage:** a flexible roller bandage used to hold other bandages in place.

**Gauze Pads:** for bleeding wounds, apply direct pressure with a gauze pad for 10-15 minutes (gloves on). If bleeding continues, apply a large pressure dressing until veterinarian can attend.

**Gauze Roll:** ideal for securing general dressings, and for low compression and support.

**Hydrogen Peroxide:** Use full strength to flush hoof puncture wounds and clean insect bites. Also use to clean instruments and tray surfaces.

**Iso-Tone:** eye and skin flushing solution. This product used as both an eye wash and a skin flushing solution. Solution is isotonic and sterile and contains a phosphate buffer that aids in healing.

**Liniment:** soothing treatment for temporary muscle and tendon soreness and stiffness caused by over exertion. Liniments cause vaso-dilation. If you **rub-don't wrap!** Products include wintergreen, witch hazel, aloe juice and commercial formulas.

**Medical Towels:** supple, absorbent, strong disposable towels used to clean surrounding area/ absorbing fluids around injuries/provide a clean surface for utensils.

**Tighteners:** mixtures that remove fluid from the joint capsules and tendon sheaths. Rubbed into an area and followed with a wrap.

**Saline Solution:** used as a wound wash cleanser. Removes bacteria and debris with no burning or stinging. Safe for cleansing most wounds.

**Sting Stop:** relief from pain and itching associated with minor burns, scrapes and insect bites.

**Sweats:** products that cause moisture accumulation on the skin by drawing it out of underlying tissues. Used to reduce size of swollen legs. Products include alcohol, white vinegar, glycerine/furacin and DMSO (penetrating agent and anti-inflammatory agent). Caution: DMSO should be used with caution and should not be in contact with bare skin- **Gloves on!!**

**TriCare:** an antiseptic, pain reliever and fly barrier in one ointment. Antiseptic action helps prevent infection, benzocaine aids in pain relief. The ointment creates a barrier against flies, germs and water. Contains emu and tea tree oil to promote healing.

**Triple Antibiotic Ointment:** used as a topical treatment to help stop infection in minor cuts, burns and scrapes. Do not apply near eyes or use over large areas of the body. Discontinue use if allergic reaction develops and if wound does not respond within one week.

**Vetwrap™/coflex-** lightweight, self-adhering (cohesive) flexible, elastic support bandage tape. 8lbs. tensile strength. Keeps wound bandage water-resistant and in place.

Will not stick to hair or skin. Mostly used to secure gauze pads or other dressings in place. Can also be used as a tail wrap. When applied properly, will not cut off circulation.

**Witch Hazel:** acts as a soothing agent for insect bites, bruises, sprains, strains, muscular soreness and swelling caused from over exertion. Apply a cloth moistened with witch hazel to the affected areas.

**Wonder Dust:** first aid powder and blood coagulant for use on slow-healing wounds, and infected lesions. Contains activated charcoal to aid in the prevention of proud flesh. Dries wounds quickly, stops bleeding and controls tissue granulation.