

Swiftsure Equine Veterinary Services

Dr Danica Olenick, DVM, Dr Kaitlin McDonald, DVM & Dr Andrea Plaxton, DVM

Suture After Care Instructions

- ❖ Administer any prescribed medications and ensure full understanding of instructions
- ❖ Keep the sutured wound dry and clean
- ❖ Monitor that the horse is not rubbing out the sutures
- ❖ Monitor for heat and swelling
- ❖ Book an appointment 10-14 days later for suture removal

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Abscess Treatment

Step 1: Soak the hoof in hot water and Epsom salt (3:1) up to the coronet band for 20-30 minutes
2 times a day

Step 2: After soaking apply a hoof shaped piece of Animalintex to the bottom of the hoof,
covering the abscess

Step 3: Use vet wrap to secure the Animalintex in place by wrapping around the hoof capsule
and heel bulbs

Step 4: Use duct tape to secure the bandaging by wrapping the duct tape securely over the vet
wrap. Be cautious of wrapping the duct take too tightly over the heel bulbs OR use an
abscess boot or other kind of hoof boot to protect the abscess bandaging.

This process needs to be repeated 1-2 times daily until the horse is comfortable and there is no
discharge found on the animalintex. Once the abscess has stopped draining eliminate the soaking
(step 1) and continue with the bandaging (steps 2-4)

Treatment of an abscess can take up to 2 weeks, but if heat or swelling begins to travel up the leg
contact your veterinarian immediately.

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Post Op Tooth Extraction Instructions

- ❖ After the tooth/teeth have been extracted and while the sedation is wearing off ensure there is no food available and that there aren't other horses in the area to bully him/her.
- ❖ Be sure to understand any instructions for medications that may need to be given in the days following the extraction
- ❖ Feed soft foods such as soaked hay cubes, grain, beetpulp, fibermax
- ❖ Rinse the mouth with water and a syringe or a hose if the horse allows it
- ❖ Monitor for a foul odour coming from the horses mouth, if this occurs contact us immediately

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Castration Preparation and Post Op Care

What is Required Prior to and for the Castration:

- ❖ Vaccine history
- ❖ Confirmation of dropped testicles
- ❖ Warm dry day with temperature in the teens
- ❖ Flat, grassy and dry area for the surgery
- ❖ Warm water
- ❖ An extra set of hands to help during surgery

What is Required post op:

- ❖ Stalled over night with straw bedding
- ❖ Observation
- ❖ Administration of medication(s)
- ❖ 24 hours post surgery exercise

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Going Away?

Are you going away and may or may not be reachable in case of emergency or equine illness? If so, it is crucial to have a detailed plan for both your horse's caretaker and veterinarian.

There are many questions that, as horse owners, we do not want to ask ourselves because we either may not know the answer or we may not like the answer. But think about how difficult these decisions are for you prior to an emergency and imagine how impossible of a situation it would be for your caretaker to make a potential life and death decision in an emergency situation. This is why we request that the "Owner's Absence Form" be fully filled out and sent to us prior to an owner leaving.

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Emergency Veterinary Care Instructions in Horse Owner's Absence

I, _____, consent to the following procedures and care for my horse, _____, (horse's name) in the event that I am unreachable by phone in an emergency situation involving my horse. In the event I cannot be contacted I authorize veterinary care up to \$_____ after which

The veterinary services may include the following:

- Referral for colic surgery
- Hospitalization and medical care
- Hospitalization and surgery **excluding** colic surgery
- On farm medical care and surgery

The following is my contact information:

If I am not able to be contacted I give permission to _____ to make decisions on my behalf regarding my horse's emergency veterinary care. The following is their contact information:

If I cannot be contacted and immediate euthanasia is required due to the pain and suffering of the horse which cannot be controlled adequately, as determined by the attending veterinarian, I give

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permission to _____ to authorize euthanasia of my horse. Their contact information is as follows:

How to Prepare for the Unexpected

It is best to prepare your emergency contact with how you would like to handle various situations. For example:

- ❖ If your horse needs IV fluids and required hospitalization
- ❖ If your horse cut itself and infected a joint and requires surgery
- ❖ If your horse is having seizures
- ❖ If your horse ruptures his/her eye and requires surgical eye removal
- ❖ If your horse develops pneumonia and requires costly and long term antibiotics and medical care
- ❖ In the event where you are unreachable for an extended period of time here are other urgent, but non-emergency situations to consider
- ❖ If your horse fractures a tooth and requires surgical extraction
- ❖ Provide your emergency contact with information regarding any drug allergies, vaccine reactions, sedation sensitivity that Swiftsure Equine Veterinary Services may not be aware of.
- ❖ Provide your emergency contact with information if your horse has an aversion to intermuscular injection or oral

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Equine Insurance Exam

Many reputable insurance companies offer policies to help protect owners from financial loss should a horse become ill, incapacitated or die. Because individual policies vary widely from company to company and circumstance to circumstance it is important to understand various types of coverage and policies.

Types of Coverage:

There are many types of coverage available to the horse owner and the conditions can vary widely between companies. Common types of coverage available for horses include but are not limited to:

- ❖ Mortality – paid if the horse dies
- ❖ Loss of Use – paid on a percentage basis if horse is permanently incapacitated for its intended use or purpose
- ❖ Major Medical - like health insurance, offsets costs of veterinary care
- ❖ Surgical - policies which cover specific procedures such as colic surgery
- ❖ Breeding Infertility - covers stallions or mares for reproductive failure
- ❖ Specified Perils - includes any number of things such as lightning, fire or transportation

Know Your Policy:

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Insurance policies are legal contracts between the underwriter (the company) and the insured (horse owner). To better safeguard yourself and your horse:

- ❖ Define your needs
- ❖ Make a list of questions to ask your insurance agent or company
- ❖ Read the contract thoroughly before you apply for coverage
- ❖ Ask the insurance representative to explain any words, phrases or provisions you do not understand completely
- ❖ Know your responsibilities. What is required should your horse become ill, injured or die?

- ❖ Understand any specific guidelines for emergency situations. A crisis is not the time to be trying to interpret your policy's fine print or to look for contact phone numbers
- ❖ Discuss the renewal process with your insurance representative and understand what effect claims have on renewal, possible exclusions that result and how long these exclusions remain in place. Common claims may include colic (medical versus surgical), lameness, gastric ulcers, and other medical conditions.
- ❖ If euthanasia is recommended, know what steps must be taken in order for a claim to be valid
- ❖ Comparison shop. Cost should not be the sole consideration, as buyers should consider the longevity and reputation of the agency and the insurance carrier, as well as their experience with horse insurance.

Veterinarian Insurance Examination:

Equine insurers require an insurance examination certificate signed by a veterinarian before a policy will be issued for a horse. This is a legal document, and your equine practitioner has an obligation to verify claims made about the horse through a thorough physical examination. A veterinarian cannot complete the requested information based on prior knowledge of the horse. This certificate requires that determination of the animal's health be made on the day of the examination.

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