

TREATMENT OF WOUNDS



**THE DONKEY
SANCTUARY**

FINDING A WOUND ON YOUR DONKEY CAN BE A WORRY. SO BE PREPARED AND HAVE YOUR FIRST AID KIT TO HAND

WOUNDS INCLUDE OPEN CUTS (LACERATIONS) GRAZES (ABRASIONS) AND BRUISES.

A simple first aid kit should be kept by all donkey owners in a clean air tight container labelled DONKEY FIRST AID KIT. This should contain gauze swabs, cotton wool (for foot poultices/pads only), animalintex poultice material, mild antiseptic/cleansing solution (equine), mild antiseptic cream (equine), round ended scissors, cohesive bandage (vet rap), latex gloves, thermometer, vet's/farrier's number, date of last tetanus injection (in case someone else is looking after donkeys). This enables you to treat wounds quickly and efficiently. Always replace used items as soon as possible.

FIRST STEPS

If you should find your donkey with a wound, the first step you should take is to prevent further injury. Catch the donkey and calm them. If your donkey is frightened, ensure your own safety when handling them. Always take care when examining wounds, especially those on the limbs.

WHEN TO CALL THE VET

You should seek veterinary advice if there is:

- Excessive bleeding (haemorrhage). Wounds on the lower legs can bleed profusely. Apply a pressure bandage before calling the vet. This can be achieved by bandaging firmly with gauze pads to stem the flow of blood
- Penetration or puncture through the entire skin thickness
- A wound close to a joint
- A severe wound at or below knee level
- Wound contamination such as that from dirt or other material
- Bruises, lumps, swelling and inflammation (in the absence of an obvious wound) may be the result of an underlying problem, and veterinary advice should also be sought

If your donkey is not up to date with their tetanus vaccinations, they may require a tetanus antitoxin injection and booster vaccination so you should contact your vet.

WOUND ACTION PLAN

Minor wounds

Bathe the wound with cold, clean water – this has the added benefits of cleaning the wound, stemming bleeding and reducing the swelling

Cleanse the wound fully using a gauze pad cotton wool and antiseptic wound solution diluted according to the instructions on the pack

Any hair around the wound may need to be cut back to ensure the wound remains clean

Do not use sprays or powders unless specifically instructed by your veterinary surgeon as these may drive any remaining dirt deeper into the wound

Seek veterinary advice if you are concerned that the wound may be infected. If the vet has been called and he recommends that the wound is bandaged you should monitor it daily for unpleasant discharge or smell.

N.B: A BADLY BANDAGED LEG WILL CAUSE MORE HARM THAN GOOD SO PLEASE SEEK EXPERT ADVICE.

When the bandage is removed, monitor daily for contamination or insect infestation. Healing wounds may cause irritation to your donkey. If self-trauma occurs (biting, rubbing, itching at the wound site) seek advice from your veterinary surgeon

Serious wounds

Get veterinary help as soon as possible. Taking care not to get injured and keep the donkey as calm and still as possible, use clean dry pad to apply direct pressure to the wound.

If the donkey's blood seeps through the first layer of padding, do not remove the first pad simply apply a second fresh pad on top of the first.

The Donkeys Sanctuary's DVD Introduction to Donkey Health Care has more information on treating wounds, first aid kits and medications.



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The Donkey Sanctuary was founded by Dr Elisabeth Svendsen MBE in 1969.

The Donkey Sanctuary (registered charity number 264818) and its sole corporate trustee, The Donkey Sanctuary Trustee Limited (Company number 07328588) both have their registered office at Slade House Farm, Sidmouth, EX10 0NU.

Incorporating: The Elisabeth Svendsen Trust for Children and Donkeys (EST); The International Donkey Protection Trust (IDPT).

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