

When your horse gets a laceration or puncture wound, there are a few things you should consider and be prepared for.

- What is the signalment of your horse? Is he an old, loving barn buddy? Or an untouched two year old? These characteristics can greatly affect the best treatment plan.
- Where is the wound? If it is near any joint, it needs to be seen by a vet, especially if the horse is lame.
- If there is uncontrollable bleeding, you will need to apply direct pressure with a clean absorbent pad, and cover with an elastic bandage material until the veterinarian can see your animal.
- Is the wound fresh, or a few days old? Old wounds with plenty of muscle underneath, can often heal by second intention while fresh wounds are generally sutured.
- Is your horse current on tetanus? If your horse has not had a tetanus shot in the last 3 months, it is advised to give a booster if he becomes injured.

When one of our veterinarians comes to assess your horse's injury, she might do any or all of the following:

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- Extensive examination of the wound and accompanying lameness
- Administer sedation
- Radiographs
- Ultrasound
- Take a sample of joint or sheath synovial fluid

Treatment might include:

- Clip, clean, and debride wound
- Suture or leave open
- Insert a drain
- Bandage or cast application
- Administer anti inflammatories or antibiotics

Followup care that could be required:

- Bandage changes
- Hydrotherapy
- Joint flush