



First Aid Items for Your Horse

There are a number of common components to the equine first aid kit I will cover what I feel to be the essential items and then expand on the potential problems with their misuse. I truly believe that if we own a horse long enough we can count on two things happening, a cut and colic. With that in mind laceration preparation has the following steps. Accessment is the location of the laceration going to put MY life in danger to clip and clean this wound with out the help of someone else (always a must), a set of stocks, and sedatives. The next is the location is it the front of the limb (usually better) and is it near a joint or tendon sheath. The wound is then cleaned with soap and water (ivory is a good choice because it doesn't have dye or scent), the hair is clipped away from the edge (helps to evaluate the extent of the wound and keep it clean), then a bandage is applied. The bandage should have an absorbent layer, then gauze to hold it in place, then lots of padding, then Coflex (don't know if I want to call a brand name). Even pressure throughout the bandage with it beginning and ending at a joint are essential as bunching, uneven pressure and quitting in the middle of the flexors will be harmful.

Common items in the kit include non-steriodal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), antibiotics and sedatives. The most common antibiotics are trimethoprim sulfa (TMS) and pro-caine penicillin G (PPG) both of which are broad spectrum and reasonably safe to use. NSAIDs that we commonly encounter are phenylbutazone (bute), flunixin meglumine (Banamine), ketoprophen (Ketophen) and firocoxib (Equioxx). Sedatives include xylazine (Rompun), acepromazine, and detomidine (Dormosedan).

Contact MVP to let us help you put together your first aid items customized for your horse.