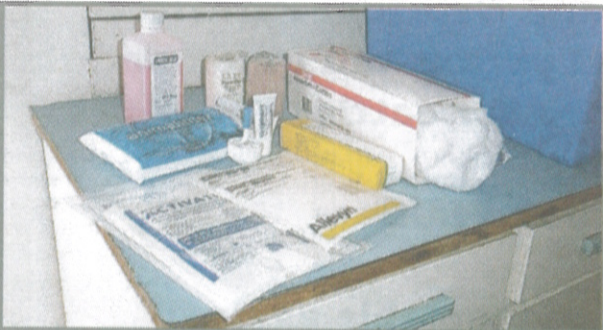


Be ready with a first aid kit to cope with injuries

KNOWING what to do if a your horse is injured or unwell can help alleviate any suffering before a vet arrives.

What should I have in my first aid kit?

You first aid kit should be stored in a waterproof box in an easily accessible place. All items should remain in the first kit and ensure you replace any items that are



BE PREPARED: Ensure you have a well stocked first aid kit ready

VETERINARY ADVICE

Jane King Westmorland Veterinary Services, Kendal, Cumbria

used so it is always ready.

A basic first aid kit should contain the following: scissors, thermometer, cotton wool, sterile salt water, Hibiscrub, sterile wound gel, such as Intrasite, sterile non-stick wound dressing, such

as melonin, gamgee, cohesive bandage, such as vetrap, poultice dressing, such as Animalintex and your vet's phone number.

My horse has cut his leg what should I do?

Call the vet immediately if the horse is lame; the wound is bleeding profusely; the cut is near a joint or tendon; the wound is large or deep; or the horse is not up to date with his tetanus vaccinations.

Smaller wounds should be cleaned initially by trickling water from a hosepipe this will clean away the surface debris and reduce inflammation.

Then clean the wound more thoroughly with cotton wool and sterile salt water or

very dilute Hibiscrub. Then apply a sterile wound gel and non-stick dressing held in place with gamgee and a bandage.

What do I do if the wound is bleeding badly?

Apply an absorbent dressing over the wound held in place by a firmly applied bandage over gamgee/cotton wool until the vet arrives. This is easy if the wound is on a leg and you are at home. If an accident happens out on a hack or at an event use anything you have to apply firm pressure over the wound, such as your hand and a jumper, glove or sock

What can I give to my horse who has colic?

Colic means belly ache. Colic is an emergency and you should call your vet if your horse is showing signs of colic, such as rolling, sweating, or pawing the ground.

Don't allow the horse to eat or give any drenches unless told to by your vet. If it is safe to do so, it can help to walk the horse slowly until the vet arrives to prevent the horse rolling and further damaging themselves.



ACT QUICKLY: Jane King offers advice

My horse has just had his tea and now is stretching is head out in front of him and has lots of green coming down his nose. Is it an emergency?

Although alarming, this is probably choke. Your horse has got a ball of food stuck in his foodpipe (oesophagus). Remove all food and water and leave the horse quietly in his stable. Most choke cases clear themselves relatively quickly. If it has not resolved in ten to fifteen minutes, then call the vet.

My horse has a nail in his foot. Shall I pull it out?

If the nail is in the centre of the sole, in or around the

frog, it is better to leave the nail in place and call the vet immediately.

There are important structures in this area which if penetrated by a nail can have serious consequences. It helps the vet to know exactly where the nail has gone.

Nails around the perimeter of the foot can be safely removed and the foot poulticed. Call the vet if any lameness develops over the next few days.

Finally, remember to keep your horses tetanus vaccinations up to date and remember to use your vet for first aid advice if in any doubt.

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Westmorland Veterinary Group
Riverside Business Park, Natland Road, Kendal, Cumbria LA9 7SX
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