

Series 2:

First Aid (cont.)

4. General Lameness:

- Call a vet if the lameness is bad.
- If there is a slight lameness, wait a day or two to see if it gets worse.

Treatment:

First 24-48 hours

- Contact you trainer/ locate which leg you think the lameness might be in .
- Hose with cold water if there is any heat or swelling.
- Can poultice or bandage to reduce swelling.

How to Detect Lameness:

1. Look at all four legs. Check for symmetry between the legs.
2. Look for any swelling or bumps.

Prevention:

- After a hard workout, rub all four legs with liniment and wrap them to keep the tendons tight. If fluid accumulates horse is more apt to have problems.

Rubbing with liniment: Absorbine, Bigeloil, grain alcohol

- Rub liniment downward with your hands onto your horse's legs 100 times per leg. Then wrap.

Poultice: mud that pulls the swelling out of the swollen area.

1. Use a glove to apply poultice on the inflamed area and surrounding areas.
2. Put saran wrap or vet wrap over poultice and put bandage over it.
3. Let wrap stay on over night and remove the next day.
4. Remove bandage and hose the poultice off the leg.
5. Repeat if necessary.

5. Colic: Abdominal pain

- Very serious illness
- Can involve large intestine, small intestine, and stomach.
- If you suspect that your horse may be colicing, get him to his feet and keep him moving until the vet arrives.

Signs:

- Reluctant to eat
- Curl lip up in pain
- Pawing
- Kicking or licking at their sides
- Trying to lie down
- Change in gum color, should be pink and moist. Push on the gum with a fingernail, they should go from pink to white and back to pink with the refill time being less than 2 seconds.
- Do a skin pinch test to check for dehydration. Well hydrated horses' skin will not stay pinched, where as dehydrated horses' skin will stay pinched. If this happens, immediate veterinarian attention is needed.
- Listen for gut sounds (being very careful not to get kicked.)

***** The more information you can give the vet the better!**

6. Taking the Temperature:

- Put lubricate on the thermometer.
- Stand to the side of the horse.
- Hold tail over and insert.
- Keep a tight hold of the thermometer.

Average T.P.R.

- **Temperature:** 99.5-101.5
- **Pulse:** 28-36 beats per minute
- **Respiration:** 14-17 breaths per minute

7. Treating Cuts:

- Suture early to prevent scarring and/ or use antibiotics.
- Make sure your horse has a current Tetanus shot.
- Rinse cut well with soapy water and wrap with a bandage if necessary.

8. Teeth Floating:

- Have routine dental exams yearly.
- Bad teeth can cause weight loss and mouth erosion
- Float teeth once a year or as needed.