

Snake Bite

- Bite wounds are found most frequently on the nose, head, legs, and chest, in that order.
- Bites to the nose and face are extremely serious since the horse cannot breathe through its mouth.
- Horses should be examined by a veterinarian 3-6 months after the snake bite to examine for heart murmurs and metabolic disease

Signs

- Dependent on the type of snake, location of the bite, and amount of venom injected.
- Extreme swelling at the site
- Heat and pain at the site
- Weakness
- Depression

First Aid for the Nose and Face

The nose will swell, blocking the nostrils

1. Keep the horse quiet, move the horse as little as possible.
2. Keep the airway open
 - a. Insert an 12"x1/2" piece of hose into each nostril into the lowest of the 3 nasal passages
 - b. You should feel air coming through the hose after insertion
 - c. If hose pieces fall out the horse is not swollen enough to need them
 - d. If the swelling is getting worse attempt to insert again in 30-60 minutes
 - e. Leave the hose in the nostrils until they fall out
 - f. Use electrical tape to secure the hose pieces to the halter
3. Control inflammation: Administer 10 cc Banamine IV (see Equine Medicines instruction sheet)
4. **DO NOT** give any oral medication
5. Apply ice to the affected area.
6. Control infection: Administer Pen G (refer to Equine Medications instruction sheet)
7. **SLOWLY** lead the horse back to the trailhead, stopping every 15 minutes
8. If the nose continues to swell seek veterinary assistance as soon as possible.

First Aid for the Leg

1. Move the horse as little as possible.
2. Control inflammation: Administer 10cc Banamine IV or 2 grams bute paste (refer to Equine Medications instruction sheet)
2. Stand the horse in a cool stream or apply ice to the affected area.
3. Control infection: Administer Pen G (refer to Equine Medications instruction sheet)
4. If the leg is very swollen apply a support bandage. Wrap counter-clockwise for left legs; wrap clockwise for right legs.

Layer 1: Supports the limb.

 1. Apply the sheet cotton roll padding wrapping the leg from inside out, front to back.
 2. Secure the padding with 6" brown gauze wrapping the leg from inside out, front to back.
 3. Keep pressure uniform and overlap each successive turn so that it covers half or the previous turn.

Layer 2: Secures layer 1 and prevents environmental contamination.

 1. Using vetwrap, start about ¾ inch above the bottom of the padding, spiral the wrapping the leg from inside out, front to back up the limb firmly overlapping ½ the material over the previous turn.
 2. Work to top of padding, leaving ¾ inch uncovered.