

## Hoof Abscesses

### What is a hoof abscess? How did my horse get one?

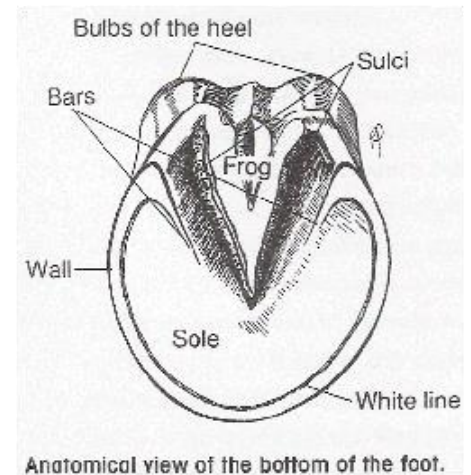
A hoof abscess can occur when a pocket of bacteria is trapped in the hoof. The pressure from pus inside the hoof is extremely painful and can cause non weight bearing lameness.

Hoof abscesses are most seen in the wetter months but can occur at any time. Moisture in the horse's environment can soften parts of the foot, making it easier for bacteria to get trapped inside. Overgrown hooves are especially prone to abscesses, even more so if the bars are overgrown and folded over.

### Treatment

Some abscesses will rupture on their own, while others need to be pared out by your veterinarian or farrier.

Once the pressure has been relieved and the abscess is beginning to drain, it is important to keep the draining tract clean and dry to prevent reinfection. Unresolved abscesses can cause damage to surrounding structures such as the coffin bone.



- Clean-It Soak: Mix the entire contents in 1 gallon of tap water. Pour the solution into a soaking boot and immerse the hoof completely for 45 minutes. Remove hoof from solution and dump solution out. DO NOT rinse, dry, or allow the hoof to become dirty. Place the hoof back in the soaking boot and seal tightly for an additional 45 minutes to let the gasses penetrate.
- Soak the affected hoof 1-2 times daily for 15 minutes in Epsom salts dissolved in warm water with a squirt of betadine solution. Continue soaking daily until drainage is no longer seen at bandage changes.
- Keep the hoof wrapped when not soaking. The bandage should be changed daily while there is active drainage. Once drainage has stopped, the bandage can stay on for 3-5 days at a time for protection.
  - If the abscess is open and draining, apply a square of wet Animalintex over the drainage site.
  - If the abscess is not yet draining, apply wet Animalintex to the entire sole of the hoof. Also, cut strips of Animalintex to apply to coronet band and heel bulbs.
- Give \_\_\_\_\_gram(s) Bute orally 2x daily until your horse is more comfortable, \_\_\_\_\_ days

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- Keramend Hoof Paste: Once the abscess has completely resolved with no more active drainage, the abscess hole can be packed with Keramend to keep out dirt and debris and prevent re-abscessation. Ensure that the abscess tract is **clean and dry** before applying. Paste can be re-applied daily or if still in place, the top layer can be removed with a paper towel and fresh paste applied on top.
- Additional Instructions:

### Hoof abscess prevention:

- Pick out hooves daily, use a wire brush to clean out any crevices in the white line or bars. After cleaning hooves, leave horse in a clean, dry area for the hooves to air out.
- Have your horse's hooves trimmed every 5-6 weeks, longer trimming cycles can lead to overgrown and folded over bars that will trap debris and bacteria and lead to an abscess.

## How To Wrap a Hoof

### Prepare supplies

- Cotton, Animalintex pad, or gauze (if you have it)
- Vet Wrap
- Duct Tape
- Optional: Elastikon Tape



1. With duct tape, create a square or round outer layer on a flat surface. Save this for a later step.  
(See picture above)
2. Scrub the hoof well to remove any dirt and debris before applying the wrap.
3. Apply cotton, gauze, or dampened Animalintex (plastic side away from the hoof) to the bottom of the hoof.
4. Use vet wrap to wrap the whole hoof & secure the cotton, gauze or Animalintex, the wrap should come up to mid pastern.
5. Grab the pre-made duct tape layer and apply that to the bottom of the hoof, over the vet wrap.
6. Use duct tape to secure the wrap in place by going around the hoof wall, keeping the tape below the coronet band/hair line. The vet wrap should come up further than the tape. (see picture below)
7. Optional: Apply Elastikon tape around the top of the duct tape “boot” & up towards the fetlock for additional protection and to keep debris out of the wrap.

Watch our how-  
to video!

