

EQUINE SPORTS MEDICINE

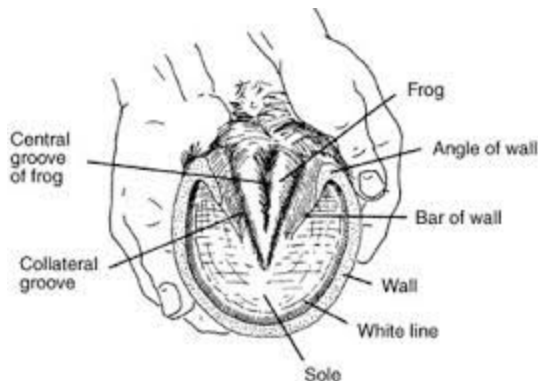
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## ABSCESS TREATMENT



Once your veterinarian has opened an abscess, it is important that the area remain clean and open. Try not to let dirt and debris pack into the abscess, which is now essentially an open wound.

For the first 3-4 days, or as directed, the foot should be soaked in a warm Epsom salt bath daily, then bandaged with an Epsom salt pack. It is easiest to keep the pack in place with a boot, but a well applied bandage will work too.

1. Apply a thin layer of cotton in the bottom of the boot.
2. Place  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch of Epsom salt onto the cotton.
3. Add enough warm water to make the salt into a paste-like consistency.
4. Keep boot/bandage on as directed.

Then, after the initial treatment, we change over to a betadine solution and sugar pack (to toughen and draw). It is easiest to make this up in a container. The betadine and white granulated sugar should be mixed into a paste-like consistency.

1. Apply a layer of the betadine and sugar paste to the affected area.
2. Place a thin layer of cotton over the paste.
3. Place the boot/bandage on.
4. Continue this treatment for at least 3-4 days, or as directed.

If the horse has improved after treatment a shoe can usually be reapplied.

If the horse's condition worsens in any way, please do not hesitate to call 410-239-2323.