

# MINOR WOUNDS IN HORSES... DO YOU NEED ANTIBIOTICS?

***Superficial skin wounds or scrapes** do not need antibiotic treatment! Instead, you should clean the wound with saline or clean water, and perhaps a mild wound soap.*

*Once the wound is clean and dry, apply a **non-adherent** (non-stick) dressing where possible.*

*Be cautious if you are using topical remedies on the wound, as many remedies can damage healing skin cells and slow healing. Topical remedies should also not be applied if a veterinarian is coming to evaluate the horse as they can limit treatment options (i.e. suturing).*



## HORSES WITH MINOR WOUNDS DO NOT REQUIRE ANTIBIOTICS

### WHEN TO CALL A VETERINARIAN?

You should call any time you are worried, or unfamiliar with what to do.

For horses with wounds, **call your veterinarian when you notice:**

- Wound is bleeding excessively
- Wound is deeper than in the skin
- Wound is near the joint or tendon
- Horse is very lame or in pain
- Wound is not healing even with topical medication
- Wound has thick discharge, proud flesh, or is smelly

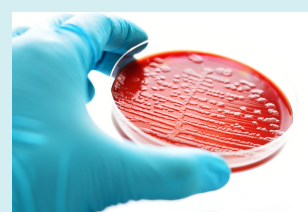
Your veterinarian may talk about whether a **tetanus vaccine** is needed for your horse.

### HOW YOUR VETERINARIAN CAN HELP

Your veterinarian can perform a thorough physical exam on your horse and provide great advice on wound management and topical treatments. They may also perform **laboratory tests**, such as:

#### BACTERIAL CULTURES

- This is used to figure out **which bacteria** is causing the signs, along with information on the antibiotic resistance profile of the bacteria
- Guide appropriate treatment decisions, and
- It can help determine the **best treatment options** if a wound is not healing or seems infective



**EVERYONE HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP, INCLUDING HORSE OWNERS!**