

# Maintaining an Equine Medical Kit

To be prepared to help your horse after an injury or during illness, keep an equine medical kit in your barn. You can purchase a ready-made kit in a handy carrying case, or you can build your own, stocking a container of your choice with your preferred brands of supplies.



In addition to medical supplies, some barn managers and horse owners keep supplies for dealing with hoof abscesses and ailments in their medical kit, or stored nearby.

Periodically, inspect the items in your kit to be sure they're in good condition, and check expiration dates. Some medicines become either ineffective or more potent as they age, so monitor the expiration dates on products and discard expired ones.

If you have a backyard barn, then you're likely to remember to restock your kit after an episode with one of your horses. In your case, a semi-annual inspection of your kit may be appropriate. Consider conducting inventory in autumn, when certain medicines should be moved to a temperature-controlled environment to prevent freezing, and again during spring.

If you host boarders or students, consider reviewing your equine medical kit monthly. Visitors may not be scrupulous about reporting used or borrowed items to you, and you don't want to find out you're missing an item when you need it most.

Here is a list of supplies and suggestions for items that you might want to include in your equine medical kit. Consider printing this list for storage inside your kit to serve as an inventory checklist. Also include a list of emergency contacts, and consider posting an Equine Vital Sign in your barn.



## ESSENTIAL MEDICAL SUPPLIES

- Roll of absorbent cotton, to place over wound pads and under leg quilts, or to pull apart and use like cotton balls to clean wound.
- Roll of gauze at least 2" wide to hold wound pads in place.
- Four stable bandages. If they do not have hook and loop closures, then bandage pins should be included. Note: if you have ponies, then be sure to have pony stable bandages on hand as horse size stable bandages will be too long.
- Standing wraps, leg quilts or No-Bow Wraps.
- Supply of 4" sterile wound pads; can be used in cleaning wounds, applying ointments and dressing wounds.
- Supply of 4" non-adhesive wound pads.
- Cohesive, flexible bandage wrap such as Vetwrap Elastic Bandage. Note: although the flexible bandages do not have expiration dates, they should be replaced yearly as heat and age may cause this type of wrap to meld together or become unusable.
- Roll of adhesive/bandage tape at least 1" wide.
- Antimicrobial or antibacterial scrub, at least 8 ounces, to clean wounds.
- Digital thermometer or veterinary horse thermometer with string and alligator clip tied to end.
- Latex examination gloves.
- Rubbing alcohol.
- Blunt-tipped bandage scissors.
- Tourniquet.
- Clean towels.
- Triple Antibiotic wound ointment.
- Instantly activated ice pack(s).
- Flashlight for illuminating hard-to-see sites; spare batteries.

### Related Topics

[Routine Equine Medical Record](#)  
[How to Use Equine Vital Signs](#)

## ADDITIONAL MEDICAL SUPPLIES

- Stethoscope.
- Hand sanitizing wipes.
- Alcohol wipes.
- Oral syringes (also called dose syringes).
- Eye wash.
- Aluminum spray for treating surface abrasions.
- Tweezers.
- Petroleum jelly to lubricate thermometer.
- Saline solution for rinsing wounds.
- Twitch.
- Liniment.
- Tube of electrolytes.
- Small stainless steel bowl or cup.
- Pliers.
- Poultice paper.

## HOOF ABSCESS SUPPLIES

- Horseshoe puller and clinch cutter or rasp in case you need to remove a bent or twisted shoe before your farrier can arrive.
- Soaking boot (such as the Davis PVC Treatment Horse Boot) or foot soaking tub.
- Disposable baby diapers in case you need to make a slipper-like wrap for a horse's foot.
- Gauze pads to hold hoof medicine in place.
- Cohesive, flexible bandages (Vetwrap, Coflex, Powerflex).
- Duct tape to place on bottom of slipper.
- Epsom salts for soaking solution.
- Povidone-iodine (such as Betadine Solution) for soaking solution.

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