**EQUINE FIRST AID KIT & MEDICATION DOSES/USE**

First aid kits can range from simple to elaborate. I believe that the best First Aid Kit is the one that you can have accessible. Having the most comprehensive kit that is at home in the barn is of no use when you are on the road or on the trail. For this reason I would recommend having more than one first aid kit available for both you and your equine companions. You might have a very elaborate kit at home or in the barn with a more pared-down version to have in your trailer or saddle bag.

Below is a list of items you might consider for your various versions of First Aid Kits:

1. Medical Equipment
   1. Stethoscope
   2. Thermometer (digital)
   3. Bandage Scissors
   4. Latex Gloves
   5. Multi-Tool (Leatherman)
   6. Flashlight or Headlamp
   7. Hoof Pick
   8. Hemostat
   9. Clippers
   10. Q-Tips
   11. List of Emergency Numbers
   12. List of Horse Vitals
2. Bandage Material
   1. Duct Tape
   2. Gauze 4x4 pads
   3. 6” Brown Gauze Rolls
   4. Vetwrap (4 inch)
   5. Cotton Rolls or Quilted Wraps
   6. Femine Hygiene Maxi-Pads
   7. 1”Porous Tape
   8. 4” Elastikon
   9. Diapers
3. Medication
   1. Antiseptics
      1. Betadine or Nolvasan Scrub
      2. Betadine or Nolvasan Solution
      3. Neosporin or Triple Antibiotic Ointment
   2. Topicals
      1. Furacin Ointment
      2. Hoof Poultice
      3. Horseman’s Dream
      4. Blood Stop Powder
   3. Sedation
      1. Dormosedan Gel
      2. Acepromazine
   4. Medications
      1. Eye Ointments iv. Bute (Pills, Paste or Powder)
      2. Banamine (Paste or Granules) v. Antimicrobials (SMZ)
      3. Dexamethasone Powder vi. Distilled Water or Saline (wound flush)

**MEDICATION DOSES/USE**

**Bute:** Usually 1-2gms twice per day for lameness/swelling/fever

**Banamine:** Usual dose is 500mg twice per day. This equates to 10cc of paste twice per day. Uses include colic/swelling/lameness/tying up/ eye injuries

**Azium (Steroidal Anti-inflammatory):** Dose not to exceed 10mg once per day without veterinarian approval.

Uses include swelling/allergic reaction/snakebites/bee stings

**Furacin Ointment:** Great for placing under a wrap for an injured leg. Can be applied directly to a eye injury as well.

**Eye Ointments (BNP):** Used for any and all eye injuries until a vet can assess the eye. Never use a eye ointment with steroids in it without first consulting your veterinarian.

**Dormosedan Gel:** Very potent sedative. Use only when deep sedation is indicated and with direct supervision of a veterinarian.

**NORMAL EQUINE VITALS**

We recommend that you take the time to learn what the individual vitals are for each of your horses. It is beneficial to know how to get the vitals on your horses prior to a crisis. Practice is crucial for accurate determination of your individual horses vitals.

Below are the typical ranges for temperature, heart rate, and respiration rates in horses.

**Normal Temperature:** 100-101 beats/minute

**Normal Heart Rate:** 32-44 beats/minute

**Respiration Rate:** 12-24/min

**Gut Sounds:** The horse should have active gut sounds over all quadrants (top/bottom on the right and left flanks)

**Gum Color: Should** be pink. Mucous Membranes should be moist. It is not uncommon for some horses to have a more pale appearance to the gums.

**Capillary Refill Time:** Press on the gum near the front teeth (incisors) and release. Observe the amount of time it takes for the color to come back. Normal is usually 1 second or less.