



Equine Wound Care

CASE REPORT

Save The Horses Rescue

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Chevelle is a 2 year old brown, intact male, Tennessee Walking Horse who presented to Save the Horses Rescue organization with two severe wounds to his chest and a smaller wound to his left hock. The most significant wound to his chest was cranioventral, damaging the superficial pectoral muscles. The wound extended approximately 20 cm caudoventrally. A second elliptical wound was on Chevelle's right shoulder, a high motion area, and was approximately 10cm in length. Chevelle was sedated and the chest wounds were cleaned and debrided. A week of thorough rinsing was prescribed to ensure a clean wound bed. Two Vetrix SIS ECM bioscaffold patches were then placed on Chevelle's chest wounds. One Vetrix patch was placed over the chest and a second Vetrix patch was placed over the shoulder wound. The wounds were clipped and aseptically prepped with saline, and a local anesthetic was administered. Anchor sutures for the Vetrix were placed approximately 1 cm off the wound bed with non-absorbable suture. The Vetrix patches, which were hydrated with saline, were then tacked to the anchor sutures using absorbable suture. Each Vetrix patch was also sutured to one side of the wound with a simple continuous pattern using absorbable suture. Care was taken to ensure that Vetrix was in contact with native tissue on all four sides. The Vetrix patches were fenestrated with a 10 blade to allow for seepage. An equine "t-shirt" was placed over the Vetrix to protect and keep the site clean. Instructions were given to Chevelle's caretakers to keep the wound hydrated with saline twice daily. At ten days post-op the wounds were reexamined. Both wounds had significantly decreased in size and 90% of both Vetrix patches had been absorbed into the wound bed.

New skin and hair had grown from the outside of the wound in towards the middle. At this time, a second treatment of Vetrix was administered to the remaining wounds. Within 21 days of initially placing the Vetrix, the wound has undergone 95% healing. Skin and hair have regenerated, even in the center of the wound bed. What should have taken 3-4 months to heal has been healed in less than 30 days.



Photos taken:
Prior to treatment (1), Following wound cleaning on Day 1 (2), Day 23 post-op (3), and Day 45 post-op (4).