

Virginia Equine PLLC

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CARING FOR A FOOT ABSCESS

OPTIONS FOR SOAKING:

1. A foot wrap with Epsom salt in it. Add water daily, and change when it becomes worn.
2. A boot, like a Davis boot, with Epsom salt in it. Add water and check for rubbing daily.
3. A foot wrap with Ichthammol in it. Change when it becomes worn.
4. After picking foot, stand the horse in a small flexible bucket of warm water with ½ cup of Epsom salts for every gallon of water. Do this for thirty minutes twice a day.

TO BUTE OR NOT TO BUTE? Sometimes giving Bute can slow down the process of the abscess forming a head and bursting. After the abscess has drained, it's okay to give one gram of Bute a day if the horse seems sore.

WHEN TO STOP SOAKING: When horse has been completely sound without Bute for two days in a row.

Ideally, a foot abscess should be detected and debrided ventrally (from the bottom of the foot). When this cannot be achieved, it is often necessary to facilitate the maturation of the abscess by soaking.