

General Information

A wound is a mechanical injury to any part of the body. There may or may not be a break in the skin. Types of wounds include:

- Contusion - a bruise (usually no break in the skin)
- Abrasion - a superficial scrape or rubbing away of the outer layers of skin
- Incised Wound - clean cut by sharp objects, such as glass or knives
- Laceration - wound with torn or jagged edges
- Puncture - penetrating wound of various depths that tends to seal over quickly

Some wounds require suturing (stitching). Others are better left open, especially if they are small or severely contaminated. Drain tubes or "wicks" may be used to allow pus and fluid to escape from a deep or serious wound. If your pet has a drain, it will protrude from the lowest part of the wound, unless the wound is covered with a bandage.

Care of the Wound - Please follow the items checked

- Clean the wound gently with cotton or tissue saturated with warm water _____ times a day. If a drain tube is present, clean the skin where the drainage accumulates. It is important to keep the wound open around the drain site.
- The bandage should be changed at the clinic at home every _____ days.
- Apply cold compresses (washcloth with ice cubes or an ice bag) on the injured site _____ times daily for the first day the first _____ days, then apply warm washcloths or a warm-water bag. The compresses should remain upon the injured site for 3-5 minutes at a time.
- Return for a re-check in _____ days. Please call for an appointment.
- _____
- _____
- _____

★ Notify the Doctor if any of the following occur:

- Your pet chews the sutures or opens the wound
- Swelling occurs in the area of the wound
- There is excessive bleeding or discharge
- Pain increases at the site of the wound
- Your pet's overall health worsens



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