

## Emergency Aid Kit

*By Bristol Veterinary Service*

The list of supplies required for an equine emergency aid kit should be tailored to one's experience and specific needs. Whether you weekend trail ride, combine drive a four in hand or barrel race, horses become sick and get injured. We recommend using a single well identifiable container to house all your emergency supplies. Items stored in different locations and boxes have a tendency to be left at home or difficult to find when actually needed in an emergency. Keeping your kit in the trailer between travels is also recommended; all too often memories fail when hastily packing for a trip.

Before any supplies are packed the most important items in your emergency kit and plan are the following:

- Charged Cell Phone with camera/Video
- Your primary Veterinarians phone number (advise while on the road)
- Your Primary Physicians phone (the horse is not the only one that may need help)
- Address/Phone of where staying (if you do not know where, how can the vet know)
- If insured, phone number/contact person
- Pertinent Medical History/medications (without bottles do you know its name)
- Emergency info for horses left at home (do the care takers know what to do)

Basic supplies for any Emergency Aid Kit for all levels of experience:

- Telfa/medicated pads (applied directly to wound)
- Roll Gauze (used to secure telfa or medicated pad to wound)
- Cotton sheets or cloth quilts
- Vet wrap/Ace bandages or polo wraps (disposable or washable, your choice)
- White bandage tape/duct tape (used to secure wraps, but D tape can fix tack too)
- Bandage scissors
- Wound cleanser scrub or solution (multiple products on the market, your choice)
- Wound flush/saline (we prefer pressured saline, helps with flushing dirty wounds)
- Wound dressing (furacin/ betadine/ novalsan/triple antibiotic are all acceptable)
- Poultice wraps (nice to have for abscesses or to reduce swelling in limbs)
- Eye ointment or lubricant (We recommend an antibiotic eye ointment)
- Light source (you never can have enough light and head lamps free your hands)
- Sharp knife/wire cutter/pliers (a leatherman provides all tools in one)
- Anti-inflammatory (Bute/banamine, oral or injectable depends on experience)
- Flushing syringe (used for flushing wounds or giving oral medications)
- Thermometer (prefer standard type, digitals are nice but battery/weather concerns)
- Medications (current medications, a weeks worth in case you forget the everyday bottle)
- Gloves (latex non sterile gloves for cleaning wounds or applying medications)
- Electrolytes (caution needed when to use, can cause more harm if used wrongly)

Additional items that may be helpful in case of emergency but require a working knowledge and experience for use are listed as follows. Ask your veterinarian to instruct you on their proper use.

- **Twitch** (restraint in some aid procedures when a horse is anxious and no vet is available)
- **Sedation or tranquilizer medications**
- **Stethoscope**
- **Intravenous fluids and medications** (significant training/experience needed here)
- **Epinephrine/Antihistamines/Steroids** (allergic reactions, vet advise needed)
- **Antibiotics** (oral or injectable, nice to have if away for more then couple days)
- **Hose** (small length 3-6 feet for cold hosing or flushing wounds)
- **Ice/heat wraps**
- **Syringes and needles**

# BARN SAFETY CHECKLIST

- Keep barns well maintained and clean.
- Educate all users in fire safety.
- Have an evacuation plan.
- Be constantly vigilant and aware of fire safety.
- Identify potential problems; review your situation frequently.
- Request an inspection by your Fire Department.
- Have your address clearly marked for emergency responders.
- Electrical problems are the number one cause of barn fires. Wiring should be top priority when building and repairing barns.
- Extension cords and strip plugs should be unplugged immediately after use.
- All appliances (coffee machines etc.) should be unplugged when not in use.
- Do not store appliances, machines or gas powered tools in the barn.
- Inspect shavings on delivery and check periodically.
- No flammable materials in the barn, i.e.; gasoline, turpentine, paint thinners etc.
- Create a defensible space around the barn. Keep the area around the barn clear. (no bushes, woodpiles etc.). Fire vehicles will park between 75 to 100 feet away.
- Ensure that there is vehicle access to the barn and at least 25 feet or 8 meters space for a firetruck.
- Clear the area to and around your water source.
- Post No Smoking signs – prohibit cigarettes, matches, lighters etc..
- Keep fire extinguishers near exit doors and cooking facilities.
- Have fire extinguishers checked regularly. Know how to use one.
- Have a first response plan.
- Keep water hoses at the ready. Call the fire department before
- Install heat or smoke detectors. Program them to set off an outside alarm. Some can be programmed with a monitoring agency. you attempt to put out a fire.
- Consider installing a sprinkler system.
- Check hay bales for heating on a regular basis.
- Hang halters and name plates on the appropriate stall door.
- Keep extra halters and lead ropes near the exits.
- Keep aisleways clear of clutter.
- Post a notice near the door with the number and location of all animals in the barn. Post an emergency Vet number.
- Do not lock a horse in a stall. Keep door fastenings easy to open. For escaper artists, explore the various types of door latches that are horse proof, but still easy for people to open.
- In case of fire, lead each horse out of the barn to safety. Do not herd them out. They will probably return to their stall and will create more of a hazard by running in panic.