



# My horse has an abscess: What to do?

## I. Speak with your veterinarian

To encourage abscess rupture:

- **Hot Epsom salt soaks:** mix 1 cup of salt per gallon of warm water in a sturdy rubber pan or soaking boot, ensuring the water covers the coronary band. Soak for 15-30 minutes, 1-2 times daily until rupture.
- To identify rupture site, palpate around the hoof for areas of concentrated heat or soft spots. Be sure to push hard on the sole (they might pull away...that's suggestive of a possible release site) and to feel around the hairline, as well.
- Keep target foot wrapped in a duct tape bootie or a diaper in a cloud boot (both feet in clouds, diaper only on target foot). For help with wrapping, watch [this video for guidance](#)
- **Diapers and booties to be changed daily. Baby powder cloud boots. KEEP FEET DRY**
- Animalintex pads are great to go into the diaper to help draw out abscess.
- Movement helps to force it out. NO forced exercise, let them self-regulate.

After rupture: switch to antiseptic soaking solution

- [CleanIt Hoof Soak Solution](#) is my personal favorite.
    - To make the product last, use half of the powder in half a gallon of warm water. Store the rest of the bottle in the refrigerator. This solution is good for 24 hours. Soaking back-to-back is advisable.
    - For the “fuming phase” (see product label) I recommend just taking a grocery bag or a Ziploc bag and putting over the foot, secured with a little duct tape.
    - This process is time consuming; it is best to park your horse in front of hay net or a meal for entertainment.
  - [Vetericyn Hoof Soak](#) is also great. Can be purchased at Tractor Supply Co, or amazon
- \*\*\*Please follow directions on product labels for them to work as intended\*\*\*
- Continue booting with diaper and cloud boots, or a DIY duct tape bootie. **Diapers and booties to be changed daily. Baby powder cloud boots. KEEP FEET DRY**
  - Please text me daily photos of drainage
  - Frequency of soaks after rupture: pending on the size of the abscess, I recommend alternating between Epsom salt soaks (to continue drawing out the infection) and antiseptic soaks. Typically, this only takes a few days. Continue to send me photos of drainage.
    - Example: can do two days of CleanIt and then the third day do Epsom salts again if still draining. If drainage stops after second CleanIt soak, no further soaks are needed.
  - Continued booting may be necessary for a period to allow the foot to toughen up/comfort
  - Pain level and heat in hoof should decrease as drainage continues. If not, please notify your vet immediately.

For more information, visit full article on abscess management

<https://www.wildhoofequine.com/managing-hoof-abscess-in-horses-a-step-by-step-guide>

