

**Procedure for treating a solar abscess.**

**OBJECTIVE:**

**To transfer weight from the affected digit, to the healthy unaffected digit.**

**PART 1**

Properly clean the area in a manner that is gentle and non-irritating to the wound to avoid further complication.

Remove of all the loose horn around the corium carefully to minimize further damage to the corium in order to reduce pressure on the lesion by carefully trimming and 'dishing out' around the ulcer manually.

DO NOT OVER TRIM AS THIS CAN CAUSE FURTHER DAMAGE AND PREDISPOSE THE ANIMAL TO FURTHER INJURY.



**PART 2-** Application of a hoof block:

Selection of properly sized block- too large and the block can be knocked off, too small and it can cause further damage



Application of glue to block- place glue in a pattern that avoids creating pressure points at the heel and at the typical sole ulcer site

Positioning block on foot at correct angle- about an eighth to a quarter of an inch of glue should be between the hoof and the block, ensure the base of the hoof block and the base of the unaffected digit are level



Wait of 1 to 3 minutes before placing foot down to allow glue to harden then gently place hoof on the ground to prevent block from being knocked off by hoof contacting the floor.

## References

1. Veterinary handbook for cattle, sheep and goats > Diseases [Internet]. Veterinaryhandbook.com.au. [cited 29 October 2020]. Available from: <http://www.veterinaryhandbook.com.au/Diseases.aspx?diseasenameid=99#:~:text=Treat%20solar%20abscesses%20and%20puncture,and%20predispose%20to%20further%20injury>.
2. Sole Ulcer [Internet]. The Cattle Site. [cited 29 October 2020]. Available from: <https://www.thecattlesite.com/diseaseinfo/237/sole-ulcer/>
3. Proper hoof block application to treat lameness in dairy cows [Internet]. Dairyherd. 2015 [cited 29 October 2020]. Available from: <https://www.dairyherd.com/article/proper-hoof-block-application-treat-lameness-dairy-cows>