

# Your dog...and Wounds

## High-energy, shock wave sound healing for treating chronic wounds

Just like in humans, wounds in dogs – puncture wounds, burns, or bites, for example – can take a long time to heal and be very painful. The sudden urge to relieve the pain by licking the wounded area is a common issue with dogs and may make the symptoms worse. Also, the potential risk of infection makes treating and healing more difficult.

### About Wounds

- Wounds may be difficult to heal because of poor blood flow to the injured area
- Blood carries vital nutrients to an injury that jumpstart healing
- Tissue fibers (collagen) and cells are formed to stabilize the wound and help it close
- Depending on the severity of the wound, scarring is a possibility
- Conventional treatments for wounds include antibiotics, topical steroids, bandages, and possibly surgery. These treatments may not always offer sufficient pain relief and may take months, if not years in the case of chronic wounds, to properly heal.

### Why Shock Wave?

Shock wave offers a proven, noninvasive treatment that may speed healing and can impact the quality of healing in:

#### Acute Wounds • Chronic Wounds • Burns

In studies, high-energy sound wave technology has demonstrated success in accelerating wound healing. It works at a cellular level to help the body to heal in a timely and healthy way by:

- Reducing inflammation
- Stimulating proteins (also called growth factors) that increase blood flow and promote healing – limited blood supply can lead to non-healing wounds
- Promoting antibacterial effects for wounds with challenging infections<sup>1</sup>

Plus, veterinarians and owners report less complications than other treatments, reduced use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatories (NSAID's), and fewer treatments than other therapies.

### What to Expect

An average shock wave treatment is relatively fast and easy. Because we are dealing with sound energy and deep healing, your dog will need a short-acting sedation to ensure optimal comfort. Your veterinarian will deliver high-energy sound wave pulses to a treatment area using a conductive gel to optimize transmission.

Following the first treatment, your dog should be re-evaluated. Depending on the severity of the wound and pace of healing, additional treatments may be needed. Even if you notice immediate improvement, it is important to keep exercise and high-impact activity to a minimum in the days following treatment as the healing process stimulated by shock wave takes time.



BEFORE



AFTER

## The Shock Wave Difference

Case reports and clinical studies in human and veterinary medicine have proven that high-energy shock wave, sound healing is an effective treatment option for treating wounds and burns.

### Case Report: Shock Wave Speeds Wound Healing

- 6-month old Miniature Horse Filly suffered multiple puncture wounds following animal attack
- Initial treatment consisted of antimicrobial and NSAID therapy and appropriate wound care therapy
- 3 days after attack horse was not eating and had a fever
- Medication was provided to address infection
- Muscle damage was evident and worsened 5 days post-attack
- 3 treatments of shock wave therapy were administered
- 18 days after the attack, horse was discharged, medications were discontinued and wounds were healing
- At 2-week follow-up (32 days after the attack) the wounds were healthy and healing

*Courtesy of Alison Morton, DVM, MSPVM, DACVS. Florida.*

**BOTTOM LINE:** Shock wave is effective in speeding the healing of wounds in animals.

### Case Report: Shock Wave in Severe Burn Healing

- 25% of a horse's body had second and third degree burns (back area) following barn fire – dismal prognosis
- Burned area was cleaned twice daily and antibiotic/steroid treatments administered
- Shock wave was performed 11 days after burn injury
- 4,500 pulses with 5 mm probe on energy level 2
- One day following treatment – blood vessels were visible, there was reduced odor and discharge, and sensitivity decreased
- 3 additional shock wave treatments performed 8-15 days apart. Progressive signs of reduced inflammation and skin healing.
- At 4-month recheck horse's prognosis was excellent, and tissue and wound healing evident

*Johnson JE.; McClure S, Liskey CC. Equine Vet Ed. 2010;22(2):67-72.*

**BOTTOM LINE:** Shock wave should be considered for even the most severe chronic wounds not healing with other treatments.

### Case Report: Lick Granuloma

- 9-year old male neutered Weimaraner
- Owner concerned about excessive licking of a granuloma on his left carpus (wrist)
- Topical steroids unsuccessful
- Shock wave treatment: 2 treatments, 2 weeks apart
- 500 pulses total with 5 mm trode on energy level 2
- No need for third treatment at 3-month follow-up
- Owner reported no further licking/irritation of the lesion and complete hair regrowth

*Courtesy of Pam Nichols DVM, CCRP, K-9 Rehab Center, Utah.*

**BOTTOM LINE:** Shock wave should be considered a viable option for treating common lick granulomas in dogs.



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<sup>1</sup> Gerdesmeyer L, et al Antibacterial Effects of Extracorporeal Shock Waves. Ultrasound in Med & Biol. 2005;31:115-119.

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