Wound Care

The following articles are produced by members of the Soft Tissue Department and are available online or by request to surgery@aht.org.uk. The soft tissue department is always happy to offer email or immediate telephone advice regarding wound care and management.

Small animal skin wounds: Management of simple, open wounds and non-healing wounds

In order to most effectively manage skin wounds in small animal patients, the clinician must have a thorough appreciation of the aetiology and potential complications associated with a wide variety of wounds and be mindful that the injury seen on the surface may only represent a fraction of the trauma to the deeper tissues. This article discusses the stages of wound healing and how to achieve a clean wound bed that can permit epithelialisation or surgical closure. It also looks at the appropriate use of antibiotics and antiseptics, in addition to the investigation of genuine non-healing wounds.

The full article is available online from UK VET (Companion Animal, Volume 16, Issue 4, May 2011, pp 15-20, Wiley) and is also available on request to veterinary colleagues from surgery@aht.org.uk
Small animal wound management: Options for wound closure

This article looks at wound closure once a healthy wound bed has been achieved. It discusses simple techniques for the avoidance of skin tension and includes skin stretching and vacuum assisted wound closure. Finally, techniques and recommendations for free skin grafts and skin flaps are presented.

The full article is available online from UK VET (Companion Animal, Volume 16, Issue 5 June 2011, pp 13-18, Wiley) and is also available on request to veterinary colleagues from surgery@aht.org.uk