Superficial Dog Wounds

Generally the cuts sustained at field events are not very deep.

If the cut is bleeding, apply pressure with a clean cloth for 5-10 minutes but if the bleeding doesn't stop, look for the nearest veterinarian for assistance.

Don't use a tourniquet to stop the bleeding. It can cause such a severe damage to the slim hound legs, that amputation may later become necessary.

Flush the dog wound with abundant saline solution if available and if not, use tap water as an easy accessible alternative.

Don't use ointments that keep the injury moist and can slow the healing.

Don't use hydrogen peroxide because it kills the cells and slows the healing process.

If possible, *keep the wound uncovered to let it dry.*

To promote fast healing it is now available Vetericyn, a topical solution for skin and dog wound care.

Large Dog Wounds

If the cut is large it may need stitching to speed up recovery. Ideally *the wound should be sutured within two hours of the accident.*

Deep Wounds

If the wound is deep, try to *put the edges of the laceration back together* the best you can, wrap it up and get as soon as possible to the veterinarian.

Dog Bite Wounds

Although superficial cuts require only simple measures, dog bite wound care may be altogether a different story.

Dog puncture wounds, especially if caused by a bite are susceptible to bacterial infections and they *can easily form an abscess.*

An abscess is a kind of pus bag that traps the infection under the skin

with the risk of a general infection.

Your vet may decide that the placement of a drain or surgical debridement are necessary.

Licking the Wound

Normally *it is safe to let your dog lick the wound*, the mechanical cleaning action may even speed up healing.

But *if there is a suture*, your dog can remove the stitches with continuous licking and biting.

In this case, to avoid damage it might be necessary to use an anti lick or elizabethan collar, a kind of plastic cone to put around your dog's head.