

# The Academy Of Veterinary Homeopathy

## Homeopathic Treatment in a Yearling for Joint Capsule Injury and Fracture by Jody Bearman, DVM, CVA, CVCH, CVSMT

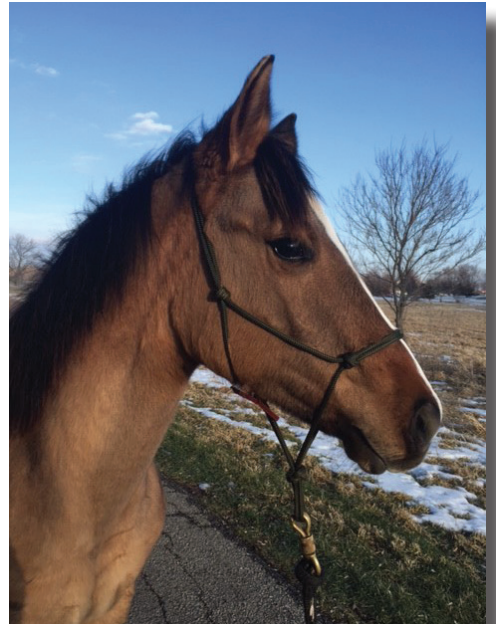
Patient Information: Zip is a one year old, Quarter Horse gelding, 344 kg

Presenting complaint: May 6, 2016 severe injury of right hind leg with fracture of lateral wing P3 and joint capsule involvement.

History: January 18, 2016. Zip had a wound on his right hind limb at the cranial fetlock. It was bandaged for six weeks, developing a slimy yellow discharge with no odor. The client used a solution of sugar and Betadine on the wound which helped. When she used triple antibiotic, the wound worsened. She then used Animax ointment<sup>a</sup> which helped. No oral or injectable antibiotics were used. Phenylbutazone was used for the first week only. No pain was noticed with that injury.

On April 28, 2016, Zip injured his right hind leg when he kicked it through a metal wall of a pole barn. When checked at home by the veterinary technician client/guardian, he was non-weight bearing on the right hind, had a small amount of red blood, no fever, and his appetite and attitude were normal. Slight exuberant granulation tissue was noticed immediately at the site. He was given oral phenylbutazone (bute). The next day his conventional veterinarian began one dose of intravenous bute and instructed the client to continue oral bute and begin trimethoprim sulfa PO. On May 2, 2016, radiographs showed a complete fracture of the lateral wing of P3. On May 5, 2016, Zip was transported to the local veterinary school, and radiographs with contrast showed joint capsule involvement. Due to the poor prognosis and strong recommendations for euthanasia, Zip was brought home with an intravenous catheter in place to continue IV gentamicin and penicillin. The wound smelled fruity, had yellow exudate around the edges, yet the site and granulation tissue appeared red. The client cleaned the wound with saline and applied a triple antibiotic ointment several hours prior to the appointment. Zip had a normal appetite and thirst, along with normal urination and stool since the injury. He was asking for more comfort from the client than prior to the injury, and did not mind having his bandage changed or his wound cleaned, but continued to be non-weight bearing on the right hind.

Physical Exam: Zip's tongue was red and slightly swollen, with full forceful pulses. All other physical exam findings were normal other than the right hind leg injury. His cranial medial right hind fetlock, which had an open wound from the April 2016 injury, was cool to the touch. The lateral coronary band was warm with mild swelling; and yellow-green discharge was visible on the bandage and around, but not on the wound. The deep wound was palpable, with little discomfort and soft swelling at the caudal aspect of the fetlock and pastern, and it reached from the lateral coronary band to between the heel bulbs. He was non-weight bearing on the right hind.



<sup>a</sup> Dechra Veterinary Products, Overland park, KS 66211, USA

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Sign list:

- injury with fracture, joint capsule torn
- yellow discharge
- less pain than expected
- swelling
- bleeding
- red tongue

Homeopathic analysis: New World Veterinary Repertory<sup>b</sup>

	Sulph.	Puls.	Arn.	Sil.	Rhus-t.	Lyc.	Bell.	Calc.	Nux-v.	Phos.	Ars.	Hep.	Graph.	Cham.	Acon.	Bry.	Thuji.	Lach.	Ruta	Sabin.	Gnaph.	Ran-s.	Carb-v.	Con.	Plat.	Caut.	Led.	Stann.	Nat-m.
Analysis	100	84	77	77	74	68	64	59	59	57	53	53	50	50	49	47	45	45	43	42	41	39	39	39	38	36	36	34	
GENERALITIES; Injuries, wounds (32)	1	3	4	3	3		1	1	1	1		3		1	1	1		4	3				3		1				
GENERALITIES; BONES; Fracture (14)	2		2	1															2										
GENERALITIES; Discharge; yellowish (31)	3	3		3		3	3	2	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	1			1			3					2	1
EXTREMITIES, POSTERIOR; FOOT; Toe (57)	4	4	4	2	1	2		1	1	2	1	1	4				4		1	4		4	2		4	4	2		1
MOUTH and THROAT; TONGUE; Red (23)	2				3	1	3		1	1	3		4			1		1				1						3	
Numbness, insusceptibility, absence of or ... (44)		3		1	3	3		1	1	2	1		3	1	4		1			4		1	2	2	1				1
EXTREMITIES, POSTERIOR; Swelling; Joints (54)	3	1	2	1	2	2	3	2	2		2	3			1	3	1	2		1			1				3		2

Homeopathic medicine choices: *Arnica* and *Rhus toxicodendron* could be considered for injury and swelling. *Arn* is typically painful and is anxious when the painful limb is approached. *Rhus tox* has excoriation and vesicles, not seen here. *Ledum* was considered due to the painless quality of the injury. But *Calendula*, which shows up very far down the repertorization, was chosen due to its ability to stimulate proliferation of white blood cells and fibrin in open wounds and inflammations due to cuts or tears, as well as its ability to promote healing without infection, and its value in healing bone. It is also good for wounds around joints, and Hering reports *Calen* being used to heal the compound fracture of a tibia “without much suppuration.” *Calen* is often a first choice for lacerated wounds and is “the great herbal anti-septic” according to Murphy. It promotes healthy granulations instead of “proud flesh,” or exuberant granulation tissue, which is commonly seen in equine wounds. A red tongue can be seen with *Calen*. Zip’s previous injury was cold to touch and, as *Led* affects heel joints and skin, this medicine was strongly considered. But the new injury was not purple or cold, and had only mild swelling, unlike *Led*.<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>



May 14, 2016

*Calendula* 200C<sup>c</sup> was given on May 6, 2016 in granule form, with instructions to e-mail photographs and physical examination findings daily until the scheduled recheck on May 17. The guardian was also to continue rinsing the wound with saline solution only, patting dry and rebandaging daily.

Daily e-mails and photos showed Zip to be comfortable

<sup>b</sup> MacRepertory v 8.3.4.3 Professional Synergy Homeopathic, Novato, CA

<sup>c</sup> Natural Health Supply, Santa Fe, NM

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**May 18, 2016**

*Zip's heel bulb area became moist on 5-18.*



**May 19, 2016**

*The moisture disappeared on 5-19 and his lameness lessened considerably (video available).*



**May 21, 2016**

*His wound continued to heal with no odor, very little discharge and no exuberant granulation tissue.*



**May 23, 2016**

*Per my instruction, the client began daily application of comfrey leaves directly on the wound under the bandage to encourage bone healing.*

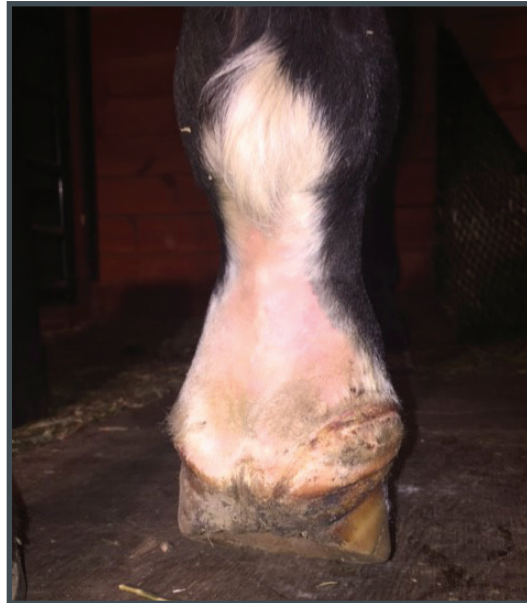
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**May 28, 2016**



**May 31, 2016**

*see video, able to bear full weight*



**Oct. 25, 2016**



**August 3, 2016**

with a slight fever of 102°F for the first day after the remedy was given. Zip proceeded to have a normal temperature, appetite, thirst, manure, urine and behavior until the day prior to recheck, when the wound began to smell slightly foul and had a green discharge. A second dose of *Calendula* 200C was given May 16, 2016.

On a recheck May 17, Zip was bearing some weight on his right hind foot, acting playful and had a normal temperature. His examination was normal other than slight white discharge from both nostrils, very slight thick grey discharge from both eyes, and the wound on his right hind foot. The healing wound had a good granulation bed at the coronary band, was non-painful to touch, and had a very slight white discharge between the heel bulbs at the caudal aspect of the wound. As Zip's wound was improving, no further doses of *Calen* 200C were given (see 5-18 photo).

May 25, 2016: Zip's energy was increasing and he was becoming restless and kicking out with continued stall rest, normal behavior for a yearling. As Zip was doing very well, I did not recheck him again until August 3, 2016. At that time, he was running well with the herd, only occasionally showing hesitation in the stall while stepping with the right hind foot. On exam, he was able to rest the right hind foot normally, there was very slight swelling of the right hind lateral heel bulb, no obvious scar, and was barely grade 1 lame at a walk only. Due to the slight lameness and previous fracture, one dose of *Symphytum* 200C was given. *Symph*, as previously mentioned, is well known for healing broken bones. It can aid in healing non-union fractures (we had no follow up radiographs so couldn't be sure of the fracture status), and acts on joints. *Symph* increases the speed of bone callus formation, and reduces pain at the site of fractures.<sup>3,4</sup> Since then, Zip has been completely sound.

(video available from 11-24-16) <http://theavh.org/avh-journal-winter-2017-videos/>



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## References

1. Synergy Homeopathic Software, MacRepertory 8.3.4.3, Allen, Kent, New World Vet, Boger-Boenn. Repertories, Synergy Homeopathic, Novato, CA.
2. Boericke's Repertory, Reference Works, Synergy Homeopathic Software, Novato, CA.
3. Hering's Guiding Symptoms, Reference Works, Synergy Homeopathic Software, Novato, CA.
4. Murphy R. Nature's Materia Medica. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Blacksburg, VA: Lotus Health Institute, 2006.