



ROCKTAPE EQUINE CASE STUDY - LANTANA

CASE STUDY

3 year old polo pony, following a paddock accident she became progressively became more lame in her right fore (RF) up to a non-weight bearing stage.

CLINICAL PRESENTATION

The right elbow was dropped and there was knuckling of the fetlock. Palpation and manipulation of the right fore RF limb was not resented and failed to elucidate any pain.

INITIAL DIAGNOSTICS

Survey radiographs of the shoulder, elbow, humerus, radius and ulna, carpus showed no fractures.

INITIAL TREATMENT

A full-limb Robert Jones bandage and caudal splint were applied to the RF limb to keep the leg in extension and prevent further contracture of the flexor tendons. A radial nerve paralysis could have occurred, leading to the inability to keep the elbow in extension and prevent the fetlock from knuckling.

Notes: *If nerve damage had occurred, the degree of damage is important. Depending on the severity of the injury [neuropraxia (bruising and inflammation of the nerve) vs. axonotmesis (epi-and perineurium intact) vs. neurotmesis (complete disruption of nerve and perineural tissue)] restoration of the function or re-innervation may be possible. Unfortunately there are currently no diagnostic tests to evaluate the degree of damage. Regrowth of peripheral nerves is slow and therefore recovery can take several months. As a general rule if no improvement occurs in 3 - 6 months, it is unlikely for a nerve to regain its function.*

OUTCOME

The mare was required to be in the splint and strict box rest until she was able to bear weight. Considering the wellbeing of the mare, after 3 days it was decided to Rocktape the 3 year old polo pony. Rocktape (10cm width) was applied along the dorsal surface of the limb with 25% stretch, commencing at a level just superior to the elbow joint and ceasing on the hoof. Rocktape anchors were placed incrementally perpendicular to the tape on the dorsal surface with zero stretch, with the first two anchors 10cm wide and the remaining three anchors 5cm wide.

After two weeks she was progressively introduced into the paddock while remaining taped. She remained taped in the paddock for another 4 weeks. Lantana is progressing well and has commenced her polo career.

See www.rocktape.com.au for the video immediately after taping.



Robert Jones bandage and caudal splint

