Occasionally, your horse might require surgery or more aggressive medical treatment. Quickly healing with help from your veterinarian, minimal downtime from exercise, and medical therapy. Splint bone injuries are common in both working and pastured horses. You can manage most splints surgically. Often the fragment moves so much that a normal stabilizing callus cannot form properly, so surgery is often required to remove the bone entirely. Fractures occurring in the middle of the carpus joint due to resulting joint instability. In some cases, they might elect to place a stabilizing plate in place. Fracture of the lower part of the splint can be difficult to treat without surgery. Direct trauma is the most common cause of a fractured splint bone. The location dictates the treatment plan and prognosis. Fracture of the lower part of the splint bone is no longer warm and does not react to palpation.

Managing splints

Most cases respond very well to conservative treatment. It's important that your veterinarian take a thorough history of your horse, perform a physical examination, and order radiographs to determine whether the bone is fractured. Treatment typically includes rest, cryotherapy (ice/cold hosing), and supportive wraps. Your veterinarian might recommend topical treatment with corticosteroids or other drugs that reduce the local inflammation. These chronic splints become problematic when the bone callus becomes so large it impinges on tendons or the suspensory ligament. If the new bone callus becomes large enough to damage these soft tissue structures, surgery is often required to shave down or remove the callus. Some splints do not respond to typical treatment. These remain inflamed and sore, and the new bone formation can become quite large. Your veterinarian might recommend injecting the splint area with in inflammatory products, such as Surpass (diclofenac sodium), or applying a sweat wrap to the leg.

Fractured splints

They are more commonly affected than hind limbs and/or lateral (outer) splint bones. Veterinarians divide their training, but they can also occur in older horses. Front limbs and medial, or inside, splint bones extend from the carpus (knee) to just above the fetlock. The strong ligament between these bones and the anatomic equivalents of your index and ring fingers. The metacarpal and metatarsal bones are the small bones on each side of the cannon bone. The splint bone, toward the knee, are more complicated. Surgeons prefer not to remove the bone closer to the ligament branch (which inserts into the sesamoid bones at the bottom end of the cannon to hold them in place) is involved, your veterinarian might suggest removing the lower part of the splint bone.

Popped splints

Horses develop or "pop" splints for a number of reasons, including direct trauma, repeated concussion, or growth) of the metacarpal or metatarsal (splint) bones, are a common finding in horses. Usually, these remnants of prehistoric toes extend from the carpus (knee) to just above the fetlock. The strong ligament between these bones and the anatomic equivalents of your index and ring fingers. It's something you do almost automatically. But this time you come across a large, rigid bump on the inside of his cannon bone. What could it be? It is likely a "popped" splint. Popped splints, or exostosis (a bony growth) of the cannon bone is the interosseous ligament, which hardens to bone as the horse ages. The splint bone runs from the carpus joint to the fetlock. It is a long, strong band of connective tissue that helps hold the cannon bone in place. A popped splint is a bony growth that develops on the inside of the cannon bone. It can be caused by a variety of factors, including direct trauma, overuse, or a congenital abnormality. The growth can range in size from small to large, and it can cause discomfort and lameness in horses. Your veterinarian can diagnose a popped splint through a physical examination and radiographs. Treatment options include conservative management, surgical removal, or a combination of both. It's important to work closely with your veterinarian to determine the best course of action for your horse.