



Hearthstone Animal Clinic

"We treat your pet like part of our family!"

(281) 859-9244 · hearthstonevet.com



Sue

09-01-2026

SUMMARY

Sue came in this afternoon as an emergency after being involved in a dog fight earlier in the morning. At first the injuries didn't look too serious, but once you noticed some lacerations on her front left lower leg, you brought her in right away, and I'm really glad you did.

To get a closer look and take care of the wounds properly, we sedated Sue and put her under anesthesia so she was completely comfortable throughout. Once she was under, we clipped and thoroughly cleaned the leg. She had several puncture wounds around the lower part of the leg, between the elbow and the wrist. On the front side of the leg, there was a fairly significant chevron-shaped cut about the size of a quarter. On the back side, there was a smaller, about one-centimeter cut. I closed both wounds with sutures and then treated the area with laser therapy to help support healing and reduce inflammation.

The good news is that when I examined the tissue, the blood supply to the area looked healthy, which gives me confidence that these wounds should heal up well. That said, dog bite wounds can sometimes be a little more involved than they appear at first, so it will be important to keep a close eye on things over the next few days.

Sue received a pain relief injection here in the clinic this afternoon, so you can hold off on starting her oral pain medication until tomorrow. You can, however, go ahead and give her the antibiotic tonight around 6 or 7 PM, just make sure she has a little food in her stomach first. Tonight, I'd suggest feeding her about half of her normal meal. Her sutures will need to come out in ten days, so we'll get her back in for that.



Dr. Steve Pelton

KEY FINDINGS

Physical Exam Findings:

- Multiple puncture wounds on the lower front left leg, between the elbow and wrist
- Front of the leg: chevron-shaped laceration approximately the size of a quarter
- Back of the leg: small laceration approximately one centimeter in length
- Tissue and blood supply to the area appeared healthy at the time of repair

Diagnoses and Conditions:

- Dog bite wounds with lacerations, front left lower leg

TREATMENT PLAN & CARE INSTRUCTIONS

Treatments Administered in Clinic:

- Sedation and general anesthesia for wound care
- Clipping and thorough cleaning of the affected leg
- Surgical closure of both lacerations with sutures
- Laser therapy applied to the wound area to support healing and reduce inflammation
- Pain relief injection given in clinic this afternoon

Medications Sent Home:

- **Pain Medication:** Do not start until tomorrow, Sue received a pain injection in the clinic today. Give as directed on the prescription label.

- **Antibiotic:** You may begin tonight around 6 or 7 PM, as long as Sue eats a little food first. Give as directed on the prescription label.

Other Treatments and Home Care Instructions:

- **Feeding tonight:** Offer Sue about half of her normal meal this evening to settle her stomach before starting the antibiotic.
- **Activity restriction:** Keep Sue as calm and quiet as possible. The wound is on a part of the leg that moves a great deal, and too much activity increases the risk of the sutures tearing. Limit running, jumping, and rough play.
- **Wound cleaning:** You can gently clean the area with warm water and a small amount of Neosporin if needed to keep it tidy.
- **Do NOT wrap or bandage the wound:** Please do not put any wrapping, bandage, or covering over the leg. In humid conditions, covering the wound traps moisture and bacteria and can make things worse.
- **Monitoring:** Check the wound daily. Some mild redness and minor scabbing around the edges can be normal early on, but contact us if you notice any of the warning signs listed below.
- **Suture removal:** Bring Sue back in ten days to have her sutures removed.

SIGNS TO WATCH FOR

Dog bite wounds can sometimes look better than they are at first, so please keep a close eye on Sue's leg each day. Contact us right away if you notice any of the following:

- Edges turning black or dark: this can be a sign that the tissue is not getting enough blood flow and needs to be seen promptly.
- Increasing redness, swelling, or warmth: some mild redness is normal in the first day or two, but if it spreads or gets worse, that is a sign of infection.
- Discharge or odor from the wound: a small amount of clear fluid can be normal, but pus, a foul smell, or any yellow or green discharge should be checked right away.
- Heavy scabbing or skin pulling away from the edges: a little crusting is okay, but significant scabbing or the wound opening up means she needs to be seen.
- Sutures torn or missing: if the wound comes open before her ten-day recheck, please call us.
- Limping getting worse instead of better: some soreness is expected, but if Sue's lameness is increasing rather than improving over the next few days, let us know.

- Loss of appetite, lethargy, or fever: whole-body signs of illness can sometimes follow a bite wound injury and should not be ignored.



FOLLOW-UP STEPS

- Return in 10 days for suture removal.
- If the wound edges begin to turn black, develop significant scabbing, show signs of infection, or if Sue seems to be getting worse rather than better, contact us right away, do not wait for the scheduled recheck.
- If you have any concerns at all in the meantime, please don't hesitate to call us.

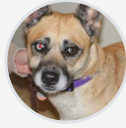
Did we take good care of Sue?

If so, a quick Google review would mean a lot to our small clinic and helps other pet families find us.

Scan the code, or visit giveratings.com/hearthstone-animal-clinic · Thank you!



Cut this out and keep it on the fridge



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