



## Love the skin they're in

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### 3 Steps To Natural Wound Management

This lovely guinea called Wanda was recently rescued by a kind human called Naomi. She arrived with a horrible open wound on her back. How she got it is a mystery, but she certainly needed some help.

So, it seems like an appropriate time to introduce our **3 Steps To Natural Wound Management**, and explain the most useful products for this type of skin problem where the top layers of the skin have been damaged.



If there is any sign of infection / pus, you must take your guinea to see a Vet as it may need antibiotics. The same applies if there is a lot of bleeding, or if the guinea has a puncture wound.

#### Step 1 - Cleaning The Wound

Product used: Colloidal Silver ([www.uk-cs.co.uk](http://www.uk-cs.co.uk))

Colloidal Silver is a very useful product to have in your piggy First Aid Kit as is effective against a wide range of pathogens. It can be used to flush dirt and debris out of wounds and is particularly useful for flushing abscesses once they have been lanced by your Vet.

I've used it successfully on several of my own piggies including Gucci the Gorgeous Golden Guinea who had a particularly nasty abscess behind his eye. Unfortunately he lost his eye and James the Vet also removed 4ml of pus from the eye socket - yuk! He was quite happy for me to use Colloidal Silver after I had declined stronger antibiotics; the results were very good and the eye socket soon healed up.



Where possible, carefully cut away any hair covering the wound so that it doesn't get in the way or stick to it.

Colloidal Silver usually comes with a spray-top, so you can either gently spray the wound until it is saturated, or pour a small amount of the liquid into a bowl and use a 1ml syringe to flush the wound out. Discard any remaining liquid after use. The area can then be gently patted with a lint-free wipe so you don't end up with bits of cotton wool sticking to the wound. The first picture shows the wound on day 1 - sore and open, but looking clean.

## **Step 2 - Healing Stage 1**

Product used: Aloe Vera Gel ([www.gorgeousguineas.co.uk](http://www.gorgeousguineas.co.uk))

Aloe Vera Gel has been used to help animals as far back as 1750BC. The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons coat of arms contains an Aloe Vera plant, showing that it has played an important part in the treatment of animals by Vets through the ages.

Aloe Vera is very cooling and soothing for sore / irritated / swollen skin. It has many useful properties and is said to be anti-inflammatory, which is useful to take the heat out of damaged skin where there is swelling.



Wounds that are dressed and kept moist tend to heal more quickly than when they are left open. However, guineas aren't really designed to have plasters or bandages on them! So, the trick is to keep the wound moist to allow the new cells that start the healing process to do their job, rather than die off because they have dried out.

Applying Aloe Vera Gel several times a day will help to keep the wound moist until a scab starts forming. It can be drying to the skin if used for more than a few days, so once a scab has formed after 5-7 days, move on to Step 3. By day 5 you can see Wanda's wound starting to become smaller and scab over. On day 7 Naomi started using the Lavender & Myrrh Lotion.

## **Step 3 - Healing Stage 2**

Product used: Lavender & Myrrh Lotion ([www.gorgeousguineas.co.uk](http://www.gorgeousguineas.co.uk))

Lavender & Myrrh Lotion is one of our top selling products and has many uses from helping to heal wounds to helping with fungal infections, especially on the face and in Mini-Pigs (piggies under 12 weeks of age).

Lavender is one of the most popular Essential Oils used in Aromatherapy and has many useful properties for wound healing. It is said to be analgesic, cicatrisant (helping wounds to heal by promoting the growth of new cells), antiseptic and anti-bacterial to name but a few.

Myrrh has been used since Egyptian times both for skincare and religious purposes. It is said to have a cooling action as well as helping weeping wounds and sore skin.

Once the scab has formed, it is protecting the skin underneath while the body is trying to heal itself. To achieve the maximum wound healing rate, cell migration at the wound surface needs to be encouraged. This can be done with the Lavender & Myrrh Lotion.

Scabs often become itchy after a few days if they are left to dry out instead of being kept moist. The lotion can help to soothe this irritation and hopefully stop the guinea scratching the scab off before it falls off naturally.

Skin takes around 28 days to fully renew itself - there are 4 layers and it takes approximately a week for each layer of skin to heal while the new skin cells are working their way from the bottom layer of skin to the top. If the wound is only 2 layers deep, it will take approximately 2 weeks to heal, if it is deeper, it will take longer.



This picture shows how well the wound was healing by day 10.



After 22 days, the wound is fully healed and the hair is growing back.

*This information is not intended to replace good Veterinary advice. You have a legal obligation to seek Veterinary care if your guinea needs it.*