

## The Use of Hydrocolloid Dressing in the Management of Open Wounds in Big Cats

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**Abstract :** Felines, such as *Panthera tigris*, *Panthera leo* and *Puma concolor*, have become common residents in animal parks and zoos. They often sustain injuries from other felines within the same, or adjacent enclosures and from playing with items of enrichment and structures of the enclosure itself. These open wounds, and their treatments, are often challenging in the veterinary practice, where feline-specific studies are lacking. This study is based on the author's clinical experience gained while working at local animal parks in the past five years, and current evidence of hydrocolloid dressing applied to other species. Hydrocolloid dressing is used for secondary healing of chronic and acute wounds, where there is a considerable amount of tissue loss. The patients included in this study were sedated using medetomidine and ketamine every three to four days, for wound treatment and bandage change. Comparative studies of different techniques of open wound management will improve the healing process of exotic felines in the future by decreasing the time of recovery and incidence of other complications. Such studies will also aid with treatment of injuries sustained in wild felines, such as trap and bite wounds, found in natural conservation areas and wild animal sanctuaries.

**Keywords :** felines, hydrocolloid dressing, open wound, secondary healing

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