

CASE STUDY

of Scar Tissue Treatment on a Horse with a 90% Severed Hind Leg Extensor Tendon Injury

> By Sue Wright, MFR Practitioner

DUKE

an 18-year-old Welsh Section D Cross

in the field looking handsome

I first met Hannah Cooper and her horse Duke in late November 2024. In September 2024, Hannah and Duke were away at a clinic when Duke decided to jump out of the horsebox, catching his hind leg on the ramp. He went immediately to Newmarket Equine Clinic. The surgery was to flush the joint, and they fibrosed and tidied both ends of the extensor tendon, which was 90% severed. Post-operation, he was not knitting, so he was put on a plaster cast from his hoof to his hock for 2 weeks. (The specialist vet told Hannah that the extensor tendon is of no importance, so he will be able to function.) Duke also has mild Chronic Progressive Lymphedema, which Hannah manages. Duke had vet physiotherapy while on box rest.



Duke in plaster cast

He was on three months' box rest; prior to this, he was diagnosed with arthritis in both hocks. The right side is fused and causes no pain. However, the left side is active, and he hoiks/abducts his leg to compensate for this.

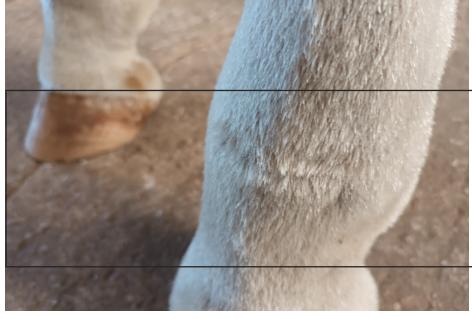
I treated Duke twice with myofascial release treatment, as jumping out would have affected his psoas and compensatory muscles and fascia. Hannah stated that he feels so soft after these treatments.

June 2025 – Duke is turned out at night and stabled during the day. After turnout, he is ridden and sound. After a day's standing in, he isn't. He stands without putting his heel on the ground, knuckling at the front of the fetlock, and has limited flexion of the injured fetlock joint. We asked the vet to take a look to make sure the pain wasn't coming from anywhere else. They diagnosed it as wholly scar tissue and permitted treatment with Deep Oscillation. The abduction is still there and will be until his hock fuses.



Dressing change, stitches still in

I have found that to get the most from the Deep Oscillation Machine, it is best to use it daily or twice a day. Therefore, I showed Hannah how to use the machine and where to use it for optimum results. Duke is a very communicative horse. He is very clear on what he likes and what he will not tolerate. He clearly liked the Deep Oscillation, licking and chewing during treatment. Hannah used the machine all over the leg and pelvic area twice a day; he also really loved having it on his arthritic hock. I returned a week later. The immediate thing I noticed was he was no longer stood resting this leg, his heel was down. The scar was a lot softer. I then gave Duke a 'McLoughlin Scar Tissue' (hands on treatment) for horses, over the scar. This softened the scar even more and Duke walked away flexing both fetlocks evenly.



Duke after DEEP OSCILLATION® and McLoughlin Scar Tissue' Treatment

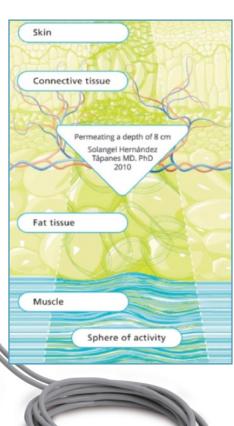
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