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## Cox Street Vets

Small Animal & Equine | Vet Clinic & Hospital



Cox St Vets – “We Care for your pets at Cox St Vets”

## the healing power of honey

why honey is the bee's knees in wound management

The use of honey dates back to 2,000 B.C, long before bacteria were discovered to be the cause of infection. The antibacterial property of honey was first recognized in 1892 and it is often assumed that this is due entirely to the osmotic effect of its high sugar content.

Unpasteurised honey provides an excellent topical dressing for treatment of open, contaminated wounds.

### honey has been found to have some very beneficial effects on wounds

- \* Attracts and stimulates the proliferation and activation of white blood cells
- \* Inhibits microbial growth - antibacterial
- \* Draws lymph into the wound, providing nutrition and decreasing wound swelling
- \* Provides a local source of energy for healing cells
- \* Provides antioxidants
- \* Provides a moist environment
- \* Accelerates sloughing of devitalized tissue
- \* Stimulates growth of new blood vessels and connective tissue
- \* Allows formation of a protective layer of protein over the wound

Manuka honey from New Zealand is from bees who feed on the flowers of the Manuka bush, also known as the tea tree. This honey has been found to have substantial levels of non-peroxide antibacterial activity associated with an unidentified phytochemical component.

### honey application and use

- \* Use raw, unpasteurised honey that has not been heated over 37° C.
- \* Grossly contaminated wounds should be lavaged thoroughly first.
- \* Apply on gauze (approximately 30ml per 10x10cm dressing) under a bandage.
- \* Change as needed, when wound exudate reaches the outer layer of the bandage.
- \* Honey can be used on infected and necrotic wounds until healed.