

# STAPLER



In a context where veterinary services are not available, such as in Nunavik, the use of a stapler by a non-veterinarian is restricted to the people who received proper training for its use. Untrained individuals should not use a stapler without the supervision of a veterinarian.

## MATERIAL



Always contact the Veterinary Help Line before using the stapler. You will be asked to send a picture of the wound in order to let a veterinarian assess whether or not the use of the stapler is indicated for the wound.



Do not close the wound using a stapler if:

- The wound contains debris, hairs or dirt;
- The wound is infected;
- The wound is the result of a fight between two dogs or a bite;
- The wound is near the EYES, the NOSE, in an EAR or on a PAW PAD;

## STEPS

A stapler can be used to close a medium to a large wound.

1. If possible, cover the wound with a water-based lubricating gel and cut the hair around the edges of the wound with scissors;
2. If there are debris in the wound, remove them with tweezers. Clean the wound with lukewarm water and chlorhexidine soap;
3. Blot it dry;
4. Wash your hands with soap and water or put on latex gloves;
5. Restrain the animal from moving;



6. Hold the edges of the skin together with your fingers;



7. Apply the stapler at one end of the wound over its center and place each staple 5 millimetres apart over the length of the wound;

Do not put pressure on the stapler. It should be resting lightly on the wound.





8. With the staple remover, remove the staples 7 to 10 days after you closed the wound.

Do not pull on the staples with tweezers or a plier to remove them.



\* The wound should be checked everyday for signs of infection (redness, swelling, pain, pus or warmth) and the animal kept at complete rest until the wound is healed and the staples removed. Ensure the animal is not biting or scratching the wound.

\* Do not put a triple-antibiotic ointment on the wound if you closed it with a stapler.

Contact the Veterinary Help Line to seek veterinary advice to get the support needed to manage the wound properly and to get antibiotics if needed.



Contact the Veterinary Help Line to seek free veterinary advice at 514 345-8521 ext. 0065 or [nunavik-giv@medvet.umontreal.ca](mailto:nunavik-giv@medvet.umontreal.ca)