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Emergency procedures in the field: a report of wound treatment and fast healing in the giant ditch frog (*Leptodactylus fallax*)

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Abstract

A sub-adult, female, giant ditch frog (*Leptodactylus fallax*) (known locally as a mountain chicken) presented with a puncture of the coelomic cavity with partial intestinal evisceration. Improvised field treatment included replacement of the eviscerated intestines and closure of the wound using cotton-tipped applicator swabs. After seven days, the animal's injury appeared to be healed. During the rapid progression of the healing process, the animal showed no adverse effects. This report demonstrates a novel and successful field technique for wound treatment of a serious penetrating injury in an amphibian. It also shows a practical, feasible, and beneficial procedure that improved this animal's welfare and that might be appropriate under field conditions or if standard medical procedures cannot be followed.

Keywords: amphibian medicine, animal welfare, field surgery, *Leptodactylus fallax*, minor surgery, wound healing