**EQUINE CASTRATION**

Castration is the surgical removal of the testes. In horses, this is often performed in young colts (1-2 years of age). The indication for castration is almost always the reduction of masculine behaviour in males who are not intended for future breeding. Other rare indications include testicular neoplasia, inguinal herniation, or testicular trauma.

**Anatomy:**

* Scrotum – Diverticulum of skin divided on midline by medial ralphe
* Testicle and Epididymis – Oval shaped, lies on the horizontal axis, covered by tunica albuginea, weighs approximately 150 – 300 grams.
* Inguinal Canal – Oblique passage through the abdominal wall. Superficial and deep inguinal rings, about 15cm in length.
* Tunica Vaginalis – Also known as the common vaginal tunic. It is composed of parietal and visceral tunics. The visceral tunic is adhered to the tunica albuginea\testes. The parietal tunic is continuous with the parietal peritoneum of the abdomen.
* Spermatic Cord – Composed of tunica vaginalis, testicular artery and vein, ductus deferens, lymphatics and testicular nerve. The cremaster muscle and genitofemoral nerve lie external to the parietal tunic.