

# EQUINE CASTRATION AFTERCARE INSTRUCTIONS

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## THINGS TO DO:

Keep him **very quiet** in a stall or small paddock for the first 18-24 hours after surgery. A quiet environment greatly decreases the chances of excessive bleeding. After the first 24 hours he may go out in a clean paddock or pasture so he is free to move about and self exercise.

**Observe for bleeding** hourly for the first 6 hours after surgery. The incision is not sutured shut, so some bleeding after surgery is "normal". (See *Things to Watch For.*)

The **surgical site** should be inspected at least once daily for 2 weeks for signs of excessive swelling and infection.

Starting the day after surgery, **exercise** your horse twice a day. You may need to force him to exercise at a trot or cantor for about 20 minutes. Simply walking around in a stall or paddock is not sufficient. This exercise promotes drainage for the surgical site, which reduces the incidence of swelling and infection.

During the spring and summer a fly repellent may be necessary to keep flies away from the wound. Consult with your veterinarian about the most appropriate choice.

Keep away from mares for at least 6 weeks following the surgery.

## THINGS TO WATCH FOR:

### BLEEDING:

Bleeding faster than a steady drip (one drop per 2 seconds) for longer than 3 hours is a cause for concern, contact the Clinic immediately.

### MATERIAL HANGING FROM THE INCISION SITE:

Small tissue tags can normally be present and protrude from the incision. Any tissue that resembles intestine is a medical emergency, contact the Clinic immediately.

### EXCESSIVE SWELLING:

Post-castration swelling of the scrotal area or sheath is a fairly common occurrence. It may be decreased by exercise, anti-inflammatory medications (such as Bute), or hydrotherapy. This swelling should resolve within 1 to 2 weeks. If swelling or drainage persists for 3 weeks or longer, contact the Clinic.

### LETHARGY/DEPRESSION:

Understandably, the colt will likely have a decreased activity level for a few days after the surgery. However if this persists contact the Clinic.

### HE SHOULD NOT:

Be stiff or extremely reluctant to move.

Have a rectal temperature greater than 102 degrees.

Have a decreased appetite or decreased thirst.



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