Special Notes

Although most colts will have both testicles descended into the scrotum by a young age, it is vital that this is checked prior to performing a castration. Colts with undescended testicles ("rigs") may have undescended testicles present in the inguinal canal (groin) or within the abdomen. Sometimes, the undescended testicle will eventually descend into the scrotum in which case a normal "field castration" can be performed. However, if the undescended testicle does not descend, it may never. Intra-abdominally located testicles require removal either by laparotomy (opening up the abdomen) or by laparoscopy (abdominal key-hole surgery).

As well as checking that both testicles are present within the scrotum, it is important to make sure that only the testicles are present within the scrotum. Ensure there are no scrotal, inguinal or umbilical hernias.

Special Notes

- Retrospective studies indicate:
- retention of the right and left testis occurs nearly equally
- unilateral retention occurs about nine times more often than does bilateral retention
- most (about 60%) retained right testes are located inguinally
- abdominal retention more commonly occurs with the left testis (right testis is smaller than the left during the stage of testicular regression)
- bilateral abdominal retention of testes is nearly 2.5 times more prevalent than bilateral inguinal retention
- the occurrence of both abdominal and inguinal testes in the same horse is relatively uncommon