

CASTRATION AFTERCARE INSTRUCTIONS (LARGE ANIMAL)

1. Strict rest for the next 24 hours: keep your animal in a stall or a SMALL pen for the immediate post-operative period. During this time monitor him closely for excessive swelling, bleeding, or other abnormal discharge. A small amount of scrotal swelling and drops of blood are normal, however, any tissue protruding from the incision or a continual stream of blood is not and warrants immediate veterinary attention. Infection can become an issue several days after surgery, so continue to monitor the area for excessive redness, pain, or thick discharge.
2. After the 24 hour rest period, encourage your animal to exercise as much as possible. Turn him out in a field and/or lunge him. This is to minimize scrotal swelling and prevent fluid accumulation in the scrotum (part of the reason why the incisions are left open to heal). You can also hose the scrotum with cold water to reduce swelling. If the scrotum swells to a large size and seems painful, please seek veterinary attention; this could be a sign of seroma or abscess formation.
3. Pain control: To control pain and inflammation, you can administer Bute _____ or Banamine _____ for a few days after surgery, longer if necessary. Your animal should not need additional pain medication; if he is still uncomfortable, there is a problem that requires veterinary attention.
4. Fly control: It is extremely important to protect the surgical site from flies while it heals. You can apply SWAT or a similar wound-safe fly repellent to the incision and use fly spray around the area. Continue to do this until the incision is fully healed.
5. Your animal may still be fertile for up to 6 weeks post-castration, so continue to keep him separated from females during this time. Depending upon the age at which he was neutered, your animal may display masculine behavior for a while after castration, or even permanently in some cases.

Please call with any questions/concerns: Buckeystown Veterinary Hospital 301-698-9930