

EQUINE CASTRATION AND AFTERCARE



We recommend castrating colts when both testicles have descended or by 1 year of age. Your Canyon veterinarian will perform a physical exam and confirm that both testes are present. If the horse is healthy and normal anatomically, the surgery can be performed in the field.

PREPARATION AND PROCEDURE

Prior to the procedure, we will confirm that the horse has had a tetanus vaccine in the last 6 months and will booster the tetanus vaccine before the procedure. Tetanus is very easy to prevent and very difficult to treat, and often fatal.

The horse will then be sedated to allow for a smooth transition into anesthesia and better recovery. The horse will be placed on his side with his hind legs tied out of the way of the surgical site. The site will be surgically prepped and your veterinarian will remove both testes.

AFTERCARE

After a normal castration, the horse will have an open incision in the scrotum. This is necessary to reduce the amount of post-surgical swelling and decreases the chance of infection. Some post-surgical swelling of the sheath and scrotum are to be expected. There will also be a small amount of drainage from the scrotum, which should be gently washed off the rear legs twice daily.

The following suggestions will help minimize post surgical problems:

1. The first night the horse should be confined to a stall or small paddock
2. Days 1-14 – Exercise is the most important aspect of proper aftercare. Some horses will fail to exercise themselves, due to pain. Therefore, by lunging your horse or placing him on a walker at the trot for a minimum of 10 minutes 3 times per day will help with the recovery.
3. If excessive swelling develops you can increase the amount and frequency of exercise and incorporate cold water hosing for 15-20 minutes 3 times per day. If there is purulent (pus) discharge developing, please call the clinic.

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