

## Post-Castration Treatment Recommendations

Your horse has just been castrated using general anesthesia. You should expect to see the following in the hours just post-castration:

- 1) Wobbly gait while recovering from medications
- 2) Dripping of blood from the incision site (this is left open to allow for proper wound drainage)
- 3) Mild to moderate swelling of the surgical site and sheath regions

**YOUR HORSE SHOULD NOT BE FED ANY HAY, GRAIN OR GRASS FOR 6 HOURS POST-SURGERY. ACCESS TO WATER SHOULD BE ALLOWED.**

**YOUR HORSE SHOULD BE LEFT CONFINED FOR 24 HOURS POST-CASTRATION.**

Normal signs to be aware of over the next 1-2 weeks following the castration (up to 3-4 weeks for stallions 2 years and older):

- 1) Significant swelling as described above, especially in older horses. The sheath may get to be as large as a softball after a few days
- 2) Drainage should stop by day 3, may last longer in older horses
- 3) Mild soreness or stiffness when moving

When to call immediately:

- 1) When blood is streaming out of the wound area (dripping is normal)
- 2) When tissue is seen hanging out of the wound area
- 3) Colic symptoms, including pain, rolling, inappetance and/or fever and depression
- 4) When a foul odor is present as you are near the horse
- 5) If the penis is swollen or remains extended for a long period of time

Care of the wound site to minimize swelling and healing time (AFTER 24 hours post-castration):

- 1) Hydrotherapy of the sheath and wound site, NOT under pressure, just by letting the hose run lightly over the area
- 2) Mild exercise such as longing at the trot for 10-15 minutes per day
- 3) Turn out alone is fine after 48 hours
- 4) Return to training and turn out with other horses after 10-14 days or unless directed otherwise.