



## **Castration Aftercare Instructions**

### **Instructions:**

Stall rest for the first 18-24 hours after surgery.

Turnout after 24 hours.

Observe for bleeding hourly for the first 6 hours after surgery. The incision is not sutured shut, so some bleeding after surgery is “normal”.

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 daily. You may need to force him to exercise at a trot 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.

### **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 Dr. Hillyer 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 (Bute), or cold hosing. This swelling should resolve within 1 to 2 weeks. If swelling or drainage persists for 3 weeks or longer, contact Dr. Hillyer.

#### **LETHARGY/DEPRESSION:**

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

#### **FEVER:**

If rectal temperature is above 102 degrees, please call.

Ellen G. Hillyer, DVM  
[drellen@riverequine.com](mailto:drellen@riverequine.com)  
[www.riverequine.com](http://www.riverequine.com)  
(804) 230-9247