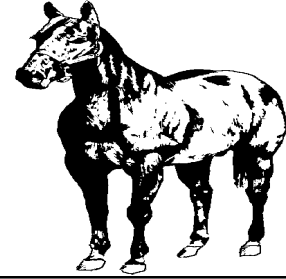




Animal Care Hospital
Stephen S. Galloway, DVM
8565 Hwy 64
Somerville, TN 38068
(901) 466-9224



Equine Castration Postoperative Instructions

The surgical technique used to castrate your colt/ stallion was a scrotal, open castration with partial ablation of the scrotum and median raphe. Premedication should provide at least 4 to 8 hours of sedation and analgesia. Additional analgesics can be prescribed if your gelding experiences excessive pain.

Healing following this procedure usually progresses uneventfully and complications are uncommon; however, **a successful result depends on your postoperative care.**

The gelding should be kept quiet (stall rested) with no exposure to other horses, especially mares, for 24 hours. He should be kept under close observation for the first several hours postsurgically, then observed every 2-3 hours during the stall rest. Prolapse of abdominal contents through the inguinal rings is *rare* but will usually occur during the first few postoperative hours and requires immediate attention. Minor bleeding (slow drip) may occur at the surgical site for several hours but should not last more than 12 hours. The surgical site should be inspected at least once daily for 2 weeks for signs of excessive swelling & infection.

Following the 24-hour rest period, cold hose the prepuce & groin area for 15 minute at least twice daily for 1 week, and **forcibly exercise (trot or canter) the gelding for at least 15 minutes twice daily for 2 weeks.** This exercise promotes drainage from the surgical site, which reduces the incidence of swelling and infection. ***Simply turning the gelding out to pasture without exercise is usually inadequate and may predispose the gelding to complications.*** The most common complication of castration, edema (fluid swelling) of the scrotum and prepuce, usually occurs 3 to 4 days postoperatively and is often associated with inadequate exercise. This complication warrants veterinary examination and may require medical or surgical treatment.

The gelding may still be fertile for approximately a week following castration and should be separated from mares to prevent unwanted breeding. Masculine behaviors may persist for approximately a month while testosterone levels in the gelding diminish.

Please Call If:

- You have any questions or perceive a problem.
- Bleeding at the surgical site is excessive (steady stream) or lasts more than 12 hours.
- If abdominal contents protrude through surgical site.
- If the surgical site or prepuce swell excessively.