

Post-operative Castration Instructions

1. Keep confined the day of surgery. Bed on straw or small grass yard (shavings or sawdust can get into incisions).
2. A small amount of blood dripping from the incisions in the first few hours after surgery is normal.
3. Exercise your horse starting the day after surgery. Trot for 15 minutes 2 times a day EVERY DAY for two weeks. This helps keep the incisions open for drainage and helps prevent infection. Lunge, pony him alongside another horse or free lunge, but get him moving for 14 days.
4. Cold hose the area if clean water is available. This keeps the area clean, keeps flies away and helps reduce swelling. Do not spray fly spray directly into or on the incisions.
5. The worst swelling usually happens around day 5. As long as the gelding is still eating and moving well and does not have a fever, this is normal.
6. Geldings can be fertile for up to 30 days, so keep him away from mares. He may still continue stallion-like behaviour for a few months. A good rule of thumb would be a month for every year for which they have been a stallion. If he has been used extensively for breeding, it may take longer or the behaviour may not ever change.
7. Please call our office if you have any questions. Call us immediately if there is blood streaming from the incisions, the gelding is showing colic signs or there is anything hanging out of the incisions.