

CASTRATION AFTERCARE

by Dr. Laura Harris

1) Keep the newly castrated horse confined to a small pen or stall for the first 18 to 24 hours

2) Someone must check the horse at least once an hour for 8 hours post surgery

watch for:

- 1) bleeding more than a slow drip
- 2) depression or discomfort once the anesthesia has worn off
- 3) lying down or acting colicky
- 4) call if any questions or concerns

3) Exercise the horse beginning the day after surgery -- exercise 20 minutes twice daily at the trot for a minimum of ten days post surgery

4) The sheath and incision sites will swell, but the swelling should go down after each exercise session

5) Until the incisions heal, a blood tinged fluid will drain from the incisions daily (if the fluid becomes thick or dark colored or creamy please call)

6) Keep drainage washed off of the rear legs and use fly repellent on area (do not spray fly spray or water or soap directly into the incisions)

7) remember:

- 1) the new gelding may have live sperm and be fertile for 30 days after surgery
- 2) stallion like behavior may persist for more than a month

8) reasons to call:

- 1) excessive swelling of sheath or incisions that won't go down with exercise
- 2) loss of appetite
- 3) fever (rectal temperature over 101F)
- 4) abnormal drainage from the incisions (see #5 above)

9) If antibiotics were prescribed by the surgeon be sure the gelding takes them all for the recommended amount of time