

POST CARE OF CASTRATION

RICHMOND RIVER EQUINE
VETERINARY SERVICES



RICHMOND RIVER
EQUINE VETERINARY SERVICES

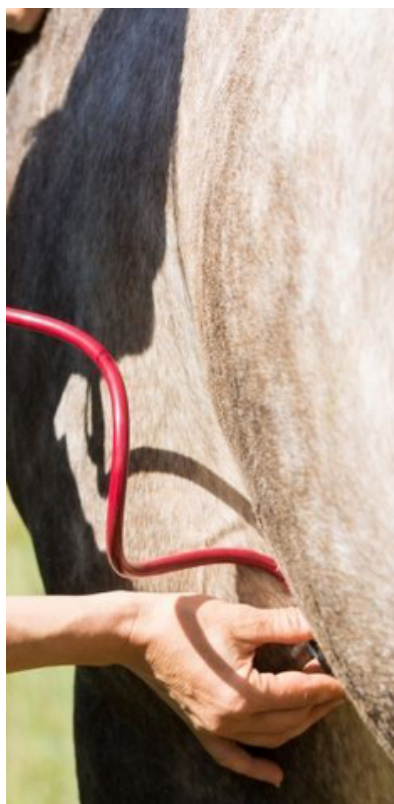
IMPORTANT AFTERCARE

THE GELDING REQUIRES CAREFUL OBSERVATION DURING THE INITIAL 6 HOURS FOLLOWING THE SURGERY

The gelding requires careful observation during the initial 6 hours following the surgery, and for the initial 12 hours, it's recommended to maintain a calm and relatively restricted environment. Subsequent to this period, the horse can be released into its usual paddock to encourage movement and physical activity. This is crucial for diminishing swelling and aiding in proper drainage.

If desired, you can administer fly spray around the hindquarters and flanks. Apply the spray from a lateral angle. Avoid spraying directly onto the wounds, as fly spray can cause discomfort to open wounds.

Typically, post-operative antibiotics and anti-inflammatory medications are prescribed, and it's important to adhere to your veterinarian's instructions regarding their continued usage.



POTENTIAL COMPLICATIONS

Castration is a standard surgical procedure, but complications can arise. The most frequent complications include:

- **Bleeding:** A gradual trickle of blood from the surgical site is expected after castration. If the flow becomes too rapid to count, please contact us without delay.
- **Swelling:** Swelling within the initial 24-48 hours post-surgery is common and varies among individual horses. Swelling often occurs around the sheath area near the penis due to gravity. It should begin subsiding after 3-4 days. If swelling unexpectedly returns after this period, please notify us.
- **Infection:** Following removal of the testicles, the incisions are left unsutured to heal as small, open wounds. If these incisions become obstructed or close prematurely, infection can become trapped. Infections after castration typically lead to sudden, excessive swelling around the scrotal area and sheath, accompanied by a decrease in demeanor and appetite. Horses with infections often experience a fever exceeding 38.5°C. This complication is most commonly observed 2-7 days after castration but can occur at any time.
- **Inguinal hernia:** If you observe any pink or red tissue protruding from the surgical site, please contact us immediately. In certain horses, the opening in the abdominal wall (inguinal canal) through which the testicles descend may be larger or more flexible. In such cases, there's a risk that intestines and other abdominal tissue could pass through this opening and emerge from the incision, causing herniation. Although inguinal hernias are infrequent, they present a life-threatening complication that requires immediate and proper attention.
- **Pregnancy:** A recently castrated gelding can still impregnate a mare for a period after castration due to lingering sperm in the urogenital tract. To prevent this, recently castrated geldings should be kept away from females for a minimum of 40 days.