



Post-Operative Care for Castrations

1. Keep the horse in a stall or small paddock for the first night post surgery. Check on him several times throughout the afternoon and evening to ensure that there is not excessive bleeding. Some drainage is normal, but should be minimal enough to count the drops of blood if draining from the incision. You may notice blood staining the inside of the back legs. This is normal. If there is a stream of blood, however, this is too much bleeding and you need to call us.
2. Starting the day following surgery, work him at the trot for 20 minutes twice a day, or ensure that he is moving around the paddock sufficiently to help keep the incision open, draining, and the swelling reduced. Continue on this program for 10-14 days.
3. Cold water hose the incision for 10 minutes once or twice daily as needed for post-operative swelling and discomfort. Use a firm stream of water around the edges of the incision. Again, this is designed to keep the incision site open and draining.
4. Apply Furacin ointment or Vaseline to the inside of the back legs. This will prevent any drainage from scalding the skin. Do not apply any ointment directly on the incision, as this may inhibit drainage.
5. If you notice any inappetence within the first 3-5 days, please call as this might indicate a fever which may require medication.
6. If you note any increased pain or swelling around the sheath or incision site within 5-7 days, please call us. We may recommend a recheck exam so the incision site can be evaluated. Sometimes the area needs to be reopened to allow for drainage. There could also be an infection which would require additional medications (antibiotics, pain meds, etc).
7. Phenylbutazone, (bute) is an anti-inflammatory medication that may be administered by mouth if indicated. Your veterinarian will advise you on this dosage if deemed necessary.