

Name:

Horse:

Date:

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## Castration Aftercare Instructions

1. No food for at least two hours following surgery – your horse has been sedated heavily and needs to wake up fully before he can eat anything. He can have water but no food.
2. Your horse will have two incisions (cuts) in his scrotum which will drip blood for several hours after the surgery. If you can count the drips it is perfectly normal, but if it's a steady stream like a tap please contact us immediately.
3. Box rest for 36 hours following surgery followed by hand walking for 20–30 minutes 2–3 times daily for 7–10 days. This is very important because the scrotum will swell after the surgery and hand walking will reduce the swelling.
4. Cold hose the inside of his thighs (do not place the hose into the scrotal incisions!) twice daily for 5–7 days after surgery if your horse will allow you to. This will reduce the swelling and make him more comfortable.
5. Spray the blue antibiotic spray provided directly onto the scrotal incisions twice daily for 7d after surgery and continue with the antibiotics and bute as directed
6. Keep an eye on the scrotal incisions – once they have healed (which usually takes 10–14 days), your horse can be turned out in a gelding-only field. Please be aware that he can still cover and impregnate mares for up to 2 months after castration so it is not recommended to turn him out with mares until 2 months post-surgery.

### Things to watch out for:

- Excessive bleeding – like you've turned on a tap. If you can count the drips it's OK but if it's a continuous stream please call us immediately.
- Excessive swelling of the scrotum – if it's the size of an orange it's OK, if it gets any bigger or feels firm and very hot to the touch please call us immediately.
- Anything protruding from the wound – some tissue will protrude from the wound following surgery though if you see anything that looks like intestines or anything protruding further than 10cm from the wound please call us immediately.
- Unusual discharge – if you see any pus or thick yellow discharge coming from the wound please call us immediately.
- Your horse will be a bit stiff after the surgery – this is perfectly normal and is due to pain in the groin region. However, if he starts markedly dishing out his hindlimbs or walking very strangely please call us.