

Leahurst Equine Practice
Castration Aftercare Instructions



Name:

Horse:

Date:

After the procedure

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. An alternative to hand walking is turn out in a small, clean, dry paddock providing you are able to monitor the scrotal incisions daily for dirt or contamination.
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. Continue with any medications provided by your vet (eg, bute) in his feed 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 normal-sized 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.

If you are concerned about your horse after the operation please call us on 0151 794 6199.