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Surgical Castration Information Sheet

Before the Operation

- Your horse must be fit and healthy at the time of the operation. If he is ill or off colour, please let us know beforehand as we may need to postpone the operation.
- Colts need to be halter trained and reasonably well handled.
- He needs to be clean underneath before the operation. If it is wet or muddy outside he should be kept in for at least 24 hours beforehand and any dried mud brushed off from under his belly and thighs.
- We will require two clean (new or disinfected) buckets, clean warm water, a tail bandage and something to rest the instruments on (such as a small table or bale of shavings)
- Please bring your horse's passport. If you have not yet signed the declaration in Section 9 we advise doing this prior to the operation

The Gelding Operation

- First, we will check your horse's heart and make sure he is fit and well
- We then check that both testicles are present and normal and that there are no hernias palpable within the scrotum
- After administering intravenous sedation, antibiotic and any anti-tetanus medication required, the scrotum is cleaned with surgical scrub and local anaesthetic is injected. He will be very sleepy and usually quite wobbly but remain on his feet
- We allow another 5-10 minutes for the local anaesthetic to take effect during which time we give the area a final clean
- An incision is made through the skin of each side of the scrotum, the testicles are pulled down and emasculators are applied to crush the spermatic cord and blood vessels and remove the testicles. The emasculators are held in place for a minute or so. The incisions are left open and no sutures are used.

After the Operation

- **It is normal for blood to drip for an hour or two immediately after the operation. Occasionally, when the horse wakes up and starts moving, a clot of blood may fall out and the bleeding may re-start for a while**
- **No hay or feed should be given until he has woken up from the sedative (Allow 90 minutes after the operation or longer if he still seems very sleepy)**
- **Expect some swelling of the area for 2-3 days after the operation. This swelling should then go down and not return. If swelling starts 7-14 days after the operation it is likely to be due to infection and you should let us know.**
- **We normally prescribe a few days antibiotic and pain killer after the operation. Administer any sachets according the vet's instructions. The medication will need to be entered in to his passport unless you have already signed the declaration to say he is not intended for human consumption.**
- **There is no need to clean the wounds but you should check them every day and if they are visibly contaminated with dirt you should let us know.**
- **Exercise is required to reduce any swelling and help the wounds to drain. Turnout is usually best but if the field is wet or muddy it may be best to keep him stabled and walk him in hand 3-4 times daily. Keep his stable bedding as clean as possible.**
- **The wounds will usually heal within 2-3 weeks. He should not be in any obvious pain or be off his food. If he seems uncomfortable, inappetant or excessively swollen please contact us. If he shows any signs of colic or anything appears to be protruding from the wounds, call us immediately.**

If you have any queries on the operation or aftercare, please call our office on 01254 888600.