

Factsheet: Castration post-op Complications

Aftercare

Careful monitoring and after care are extremely important. Your horse should be rested for 24 hours after surgery to allow the blood to clot and avoid too much movement. After 24 hours you should turn out your horse into a clean dry field ideally so he can have gentle exercise. If this is not possible then alternatively you could hand walk him several times a day. **It is very important he gets exercise.** This will reduce swelling and keeps the wound draining.

What to expect after castration?

- A small amount of swelling around the wound is normal for about a week and will reduce with exercise
- A small amount of blood will drip from the castration site following surgery. If the blood is dripping slowly and you can count the drops then this is normal however a fast, uncountable drip or steady stream is a problem and you will need to call your vet

Complications and when to call your vet

Persistent bleeding –if there is fast steady stream of blood or if the wound continues to bleed after 24 hours then contact your vet

Severe swelling – sometimes the wound and sheath can become very swollen and the horse may need anti-inflammatories from the vet to reduce the swelling. Cold hosing the area for 10 minutes twice a day and walking the horse for 10 minutes three times a day can help

Infection – sometimes the wound can become infected and fill with pus. The vet will need to reopen the incision and give the horse antibiotics to treat the infection

Herniation of intestines – this is when the intestines can protrude out of the wound before it has had chance to close. **This is a life-threatening emergency and you should call your vet immediately.** Emergency surgery is needed to replace the intestines

Persistent bleeding



Severe swelling



Infection



We'd really value your support

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We believe that prevention is better than cure and that through education we can achieve better outcomes for horses and their owners.

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- Cover veterinary bills
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- Pay our welfare officer
- Run our education programmes

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