

# **POSTOPERATIVE CARE FOR** **CASTRATION**



It is very important to monitor your horse twice daily for the next 7-14 days following surgery. It is recommended to keep your horse confined to a stall until the morning after surgery. Excessive bleeding is our primary concern in the first 24 hours. Moderate swelling and drainage from the surgical site is common and normal. If excessive swelling and drainage is noted, it may be treated with increased exercise or cold hosing for 10 minutes. If the swelling does not go down, worsens, or a temperature of 102 degrees or higher is noted, call us.

Some blood dripping on the hind legs following surgery is common. If the surgical site continues bleeding at a fast drip (1 drip/second) after the surgery, you should call us.

Exercising your horse, and turning out if available, is an extremely important part of recovery. It is necessary to exercise your horse two times a day until the incision is healed and the swelling has gone down. Exercise regime should start with hand-walking the morning after surgery for about 15-20 minutes. That afternoon, lunge the horse at a slow trot for about 15-20 minutes. The trotting exercise should be repeated twice daily until the surgical site has healed. Riding your new gelding is also acceptable at moderate intensity during the first two weeks of recovery.

Castrated horses should be isolated from mares for the first 60 days of recovery to decrease the risk of hemorrhage and avoid breeding accidents.

**Dr.'s Instructions:**