

Double Arrow Veterinary Clinic PC  
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## HORSE CASTRATION

Your horse has just undergone anesthesia and an invasive surgical procedure. Castration involves the complete removal of both testicles and a portion of the spermatic cord. The surgery site is left open to drain, so we expect some sucking-type noises when he walks for several days after surgery. At our clinic we elect to fully anesthetize horses so we are able to visualize the removal of all important structures to prevent a “proud cut” horse. Because of the anesthetics, we expect him to be slow and groggy for a few hours.

### AFTERCARE INSTRUCTIONS:

**No food for at least 4 hours after surgery.** Horses are prone to choking if fed before they are fully awake.

**Keep your horse in a small area alone for 24 hours after surgery.** This keeps him from moving too much and reduces bleeding problems. If your horse runs and is very nervous alone, it is sometimes better to put another horse with him to keep him calm.

**After the initial 24 hour period, you need to make your horse trot for 20 minutes twice daily for 7 days.** This helps keep the surgery site open and keeps it draining. The most common complication to this surgery is inadequate exercise causing swelling and infection at the surgery site.

**Keep your horse in a clean, dry area to reduce the incidence of infection at the surgery site.** A grassy area is preferred.

Apply fly spray to the surgery site every 1-2 days as necessary if flies are a problem and if the horse will allow it.

Monitor closely for excessive swelling (a small amount of swelling at the tip of the sheath is expected) or a foul-smelling, pus discharge from the surgery site. There may be a problem if your horse will not eat, drink, or move around on his own.

**If you notice any of these problems call our office IMMEDIATELY!**

If you have any concerns or questions, please don't hesitate to call our office at **426-4470.**