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Post - Operative Notes For Colt Castrations

Your colt has had both testicles removed and the two large surgical wounds in the scrotal skin have been left open for drainage. Please do not clean these wounds, nor apply anything to them. After a few days the lower legs may be washed using a sponge if necessary, not a hose.

Some swelling is normal. This should only be the size of an orange or a grapefruit. If larger than this please contact your veterinary surgeon.

To minimise the swelling it is important not to leave your colt stabled. Turn him out in a small clean paddock (not in the fly season!), ideally on his own. Do not turn out with other colts or mares as they are likely to run around and initiate serious bleeding. Alternatively your colt must be walked in hand for a minimum of fifteen minutes three or four times a day. If stabled, straw/paper or rubber flooring is preferable to shavings.

Even though the testicles have been removed, live sperm remain in the vas deferens (tubes to the penis) and so there is a risk that a recently castrated colt could successfully cover a mare. The exact time period is difficult to estimate but we would suggest six to twelve weeks before your castrated horse is turned out with mares.

Some bleeding following the procedure is normal. This should however only be a slow drip. It may continue for a few days. A stream of blood is not normal and you must contact your veterinary surgeon immediately.

The scrotal wounds connect directly with the abdominal cavity. Often a blood clot will protrude from the wound; anything else is abnormal and you must contact your veterinary surgeon straight away.

If you have any other queries, please contact the practice.



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