

# CASTRATIONS



Castrations are a routinely performed surgical procedure undertaken either out at your field/yard or at our hospital. In most cases the operation is carried out under standing sedation, occasionally a short general anaesthetic is required. We offer discounted rates during our “castration clinic days” in the Spring and Autumn, please call us for further information.

We usually recommend that entire male horses and ponies are castrated when they are approximately 12 months of age. This can vary depending on individual circumstances and the temperament of the colt, with some owners wishing to castrate colts for behavioural reasons a little earlier than this!

If possible it is best if prior to the procedure the colt has been examined by either the owner or a vet to check that both testicles have fully descended, sometimes this is not always possible in more fractious individuals.

It is beneficial if the colt has completed its primary course of tetanus vaccinations (although tetanus anti-toxin can be given on the day to cover the colt for tetanus in the short term). In the majority of cases colts are castrated whilst they are standing using sedation.

In rare cases, due to temperament or the location of the testicles it may be necessary to perform the operation under a “field anaesthetic”.

Anti-inflammatories and antibiotics are given routinely at the time of the procedure and then follow up oral antibiotics and anti-inflammatories are given for a short period of time to help reduce the risk of post operative infection and excessive swelling.

We always recommend that your pony/horse is turned out in a clean/dry paddock post operatively, this helps to reduce post operative swelling and usually helps speed up recovery time.

Once the operation has been performed it is important that you watch out for:

- Excessive bleeding (can't count drops of blood or a continuous stream of blood)
- Swelling which impedes extrusion of the penis
- Any discharge from the open wounds
- Dull demeanour

If any of these signs occur then call the surgery for advice.

Castrations can be performed either at our hospital in Hythe or out at your yard. Prices start from £120 inc.VAT



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