**Farmer-Client Communication:**

**What is an inguinal hernia?**

An inguinal hernia happens when a defect in the inguinal wall allows intestines or other abdominal organs to pass through. The hernia develops when a large and patent vaginal ring allows communication between the vaginal tunic and peritoneal cavities. Organs protrude into the scrotum to form a scrotal hernia, which is a more serious form of the inguinal hernia. Diagnosis is usually made by history taking and direct manipulation of the scrotum. If necessary, ultrasonography and needle aspiration can be used but  needle aspiration is not recommended in case an abdominal organ such as the intestines are punctured which can cause peritonitis.

**Why should a repair be done?**

 A repair of the inguinal hernia should be done because if it is left as it is then more abdominal contents may be able to slip through the hernial ring. If this happens the abdominal contents will add weight to the scrotal sac causing it to get closer to the ground. This can cause damage to the abdominal contents when the animal is moving around. If the scrotal sac is damaged with the intestinal contents then a peritonitis can occur due to the ruptured intestine.

**When is the best time to perform this procedure?**

 This procedure should be performed as soon as possible once a farmer has detected an abnormality in the scrotal or inguinal region. The veterinarian should be informed as soon as possible.

**How will pain be managed?**

 Pain will be managed during the surgery by anesthetic drugs such as xylazine and ketamine. For added analgesia in that area lidocaine can be used to perform an epidural before the surgery to aid in pain management. NSAIDs can also be used post operatively for pain relief and its anti-inflammatory properties.

**When can a castration be performed before or after the surgery?**

 When an inguinal hernia repair is being carried out the castration is usually performed during this surgery after the abdominal contents have been removed from the scrotal sac.

**Is there a cost attached to the procedure?**

 There is a cost attached to this procedure due to a surgery being performed and all the materials being utilized such as drugs, drapes and scalpels etc. The cost of this procedure will depend on whether it is performed in the field or at a clinic. The price of this surgery can range upwards from $200 US but the cost received will depend on the veterinarian performing the surgery as most veterinarians charge different prices.

**Are there any forms to sign before the procedure is carried out?**

 There is a form for the farmer to sign giving consent for the veterinarian to put his animal under anesthesia and also to indicate that he is aware of complications that can happen during the surgery.

**When can this animal be slaughtered after this procedure?**

 The farmer should ensure that the animal is properly healed from the procedure before considering carrying it to slaughter. This can take anywhere between 3-6 weeks. As for when boar taint will be decreased there is no specific evidence indicating how soon after castration boars can be carried to slaughter and it is important that the farmer is aware of this.