Post -Operative Management of Castration

Following castration, horses should receive a tetanus toxoid booster (if vaccinations are current) or both tetanus toxoid and a tetanus antitoxin injection if the horse has never been vaccinated. The veterinarian may administer antibiotics/NSAIDS (anti-inflammatories) to your horse after surgery. The veterinarian will advise you on what he/she feels is best for your individual horse. If flies are still in season, it is a good idea to apply an insect repellent immediately after the castration surgery.

**Shelter**

It is recommended that the horse be placed in a small paddock or stall for 12 to 24 hours for observation to ensure adequate clotting. If the horse is to be stalled, bed the enclosure with fresh shavings or straw.

**Exercise**

Beginning the day after surgery, the horse should be exercised at a trot or on an automatic walker for at least 15 to 20 minutes twice a day to avoid swelling and stimulate drainage of any post-surgical fluid that may have accumulated in the swollen scrotum. Exercise should continue for about two weeks or until healing is complete.

