

Advantages & Disadvantages of Equine Castration

Advantages:

1. Eliminate or reduce aggressive behaviour due to no testosterone being produced by the testicles.
2. Easier and calmer for handling purposes.
3. Eliminate sexual activity and unwanted matings, which can affect the athletic performance of the horse. In horse racing, it may be beneficial as an uncastrated horse may get distracted.
4. Eliminate the risk of developing testicular tumors and testicular trauma.
5. Prevent unwanted genetic traits from passing to offspring. i.e. a cryptorchid.

Disadvantages

1. Cheaper castration methods exist which the farmer may attempt to do himself. These methods increase the risk of infection.
2. It is a traumatic experience for the horse.
3. There is potentially a decrease in weight gain post surgery for a period of time in younger horses.