Male Equine Reproductive Anatomy



For the purposes of this lab, the focus is the anatomy of the testes and other scrotum contents.



* In order to thermoregulate the testes, the scrotum is slightly pendulous
	+ However, it is not enough for bloodless techniques to be available for use when castrating.
* The scrotal wall has four layers
	+ The skin, which is external.
	+ The tunica dartos, which is muscular and fibroelastic tissue.
	+ The scrotal fascia, which is loose and allows movement of the testes independant of the scrotum.
	+ The parietal vaginal tunic, which is separated from the visceral vaginal tunic by vaginal cavity.
* The cremaster muscle may cause the testicles to retract into the abdomen if the horse is frightened, making this surgery more difficult.



* When the scrotum is open and the vaginal tunic is opened, this is what is visible.
* The pampiniform plexus, also called the spermatic vessels, has a series of veins coiled around an artery.
	+ The veins drain the testes while the artery supplies them.
	+ The veins coiling around the artery aids thermoregulation, cooling the warm blood entering the heat sensitive organ.
	+ The testicular nerves are also present here, and originates in the caudal mesenteric plexus from the splanchnic lumbar nerve.
* The vas deferens is cmedial to the mesorchium, and it originates from the tail of the epididymus.
* The cremaster muscle is absent in the diagram, but is still a part of the spermatic cord.
* The mesorchium is a fibrous sheath that attaches the structures of the spermatic cord together.