



Equine Castration Consent Form

Owner:	Horse Name:
Address:	Age:
Telephone:	Breed:
Email Address:	Color:

I _____ (owner/agent) authorize Windmill Equine and Dr. Lauren McPherson, DVM to administer a sedative and local anesthetic or a general anesthetic to the above named horse for the purpose of gelding the above named horse as deemed appropriate by the attending veterinary surgeon. If applicable, I confirm that I have notified the insurance company that this procedure will be undertaken. I acknowledge that no surgical procedure is without risk to the animal. I accept all potential surgical and anesthetic risk including any complications that may develop as a result of this procedure and agree to forever release Windmill Equine and its employees.

Some of the common problems associated with this procedure include:

- Post-surgical bleeding
- Post-surgical infection
- Anesthetic injury or death
- Evisceration/evisceration of the intestines through the surgical wound

I acknowledge that I have been made aware of these risks. I acknowledge that post-operative care may be required and will be responsible for updating the veterinary surgeon on patient progress and seeking post-operative veterinary care if needed. I confirm that I have read and understand the castration aftercare document and agree to follow the guidelines.

I agree to pay all costs associated with this procedure. If there is no history of a tetanus vaccine being administered by a veterinarian in the previous 6 months, I authorize this to be given at the time of castration at an additional cost.

Signed Owner/Agent: _____

Date: _____



Equine Castration Aftercare

Castration is surgical removal of the testicles. The procedure is performed with the horse recumbent (lying down) under a short acting general anesthesia. The procedure is performed with sterile instruments and using routine surgical preparation. At the time of the procedure, an injection of anti-inflammatories and antibiotics is given. This increases comfort after castration and reduces the occurrence of infection. If a tetanus vaccination has not been administered within the last 6 months, vaccination at the time of procedure will also be required. Note that the surgical incision is left open (i.e. not sutured) to facilitate drainage and healing.

Potential Complications

Although castration is a routine surgical procedure, certain complications can develop including:

- **Bleeding:** There is likely to be some degree of bleeding from the surgical site for up to 48 hours after surgery. Owners should monitor bleeding by monitoring the surgical site several times daily for 2-3 days after surgery. If an owner can count the drops of blood, continue to monitor. Any bleeding occurring faster than this or streaming of blood requires immediate veterinary attention.
- **Infection/Swelling:** If the scrotal region swells to more than 2 times its pre-surgical size or your horse becomes lethargic, inappetant, or rectal temperature exceeds 101.5F, infection should be suspected and veterinary attention sought immediately. Following the aftercare instructions should encourage controlled drainage, reduce risk of infection, and reduce excessive swelling.
- **Inguinal Hernia:** In some horses, the opening of the abdominal wall (inguinal canal) through which the testicles descend into the scrotum is abnormally large or flexible. In these horses, the intestines and other abdominal tissue can pass through the inguinal opening (herniate). Though inguinal hernias are uncommon, they are a serious and life threatening complication. If you see pink tissue hanging from the surgical site, seek veterinary care immediately.
- **Pregnancy:** A recently castrated gelding can still get a mare in foal for some time after castration because of sperm remaining in the conducting system. Recently castrated geldings should be kept away from mares for 63 days.



Aftercare Instructions

1. Stall rest the horse in a straw-bedded stall for the first 24 hours after surgery. This should be a clean, dry and non-dusty environment. The horse should remain bedded on straw for 2 weeks post-surgery.
2. The horse and surgical site should be checked at least hourly for 8 hours after surgery, then at least twice daily for the next week.
3. After the first 24 hours, the horse should be exercised for 10 minutes twice daily for the next week. This can include fast walking in hand, trotting or lunging. This movement encourages drainage and helps to reduce swelling.
4. The horse's hind legs can be hosed and cleaned as needed with water and a mild dish soap like Dawn as blood tends to drip onto the limbs immediately after surgery. NEVER spray water into or around the surgical site.
5. Bute – give _____ gram or scoop twice a day for three days then give _____ gram or scoop twice a day for two days.
6. SMZ (antibiotics) – give _____ tablets orally twice a day for 7 days.
7. Please call immediately if you notice excessive swelling, bleeding that is streaming or too fast to count individual drops, pink tissue hanging from the incisions, discharge, lethargy, inappetance, lameness or rectal temperature exceeding 101.5F.