

## Aftercare Points to Remember:

- ☑ The sedative used for the operation usually wears off after 45 - 60 minutes. An animal that is still very sleepy after this period of time may have internal bleeding, and this would require urgent attention.
- ☑ There should NOT be any signs of colic or loss of appetite. If there is, phone us immediately.
- ☑ Remove the tail bandage within 2 hours of the operation.
- ☑ The wounds are usually dry after 24 - 48 hours with perhaps only a small amount of blood tinged watery fluid evident. Anything other than this may indicate an infection that requires further treatment.
- ☑ The risk of excessive swelling and infection can be reduced by allowing the animal some exercise / movement on the days following the operation. This should not be excessive, to avoid setting off any bleeding.
- ☑ Don't forget to have a 2nd tetanus or flu / tetanus 4 - 6 weeks after the procedure if you started your gelding on a course of vaccinations the day he was castrated.
- ☑ You should start to notice a loss of the coltish behaviour after 2 - 3 weeks. But remember that fertility levels do not fall to zero for up to 8 weeks in some circumstances.
- ☑ **IF THERE IS ANYTHING YOU ARE UNSURE ABOUT, PLEASE PHONE SOONER RATHER THAN LATER. PROBLEMS ARE EASIER TO DEAL WITH IF THEY ARE TREATED EARLIER!**

## Aftercare Information:



### **The main complication that can develop on the same day as the operation, is that of bleeding or haemorrhage.**

Whilst occasional drips of blood will be normal, observe carefully for any streams of blood or large puddles of blood lying around the stable which would indicate a more worrying situation. The risk of bleeding is reduced a lot by keeping the animal calm for the rest of the day after the operation. This helps to keep their blood pressure lower and thus minimises the risk of clots being dislodged off the ends of the blood vessels. This means that the animal must be stabled for the rest of the day after the operation, as running around the field will also cause the blood pressure to rise considerably.

**All colts will swell in their groin area to some degree after castration, and this usually reaches a maximum after 4 - 5 days.** Initially it is centred in the scrotal area, then it usually gravitates downwards and forwards on to the sheath. Any swelling that settles on the sheath can remain there for a week or so, this is usually nothing to worry about. Swelling which persists in the scrotal area may indicate an infection, which the antibiotic given at the time of the operation has been unable to control. This would require further treatment.

The other very uncommon group of complications occasionally seen, involve various bits of tissue coming out through the incisions. Check carefully and regularly for this during the remainder of the day of the operation. **Phone us immediately if you are suspicious of anything.**