

Mandarin Equine Veterinary Service  
3230 Loretto Road  
Jacksonville, FL 32233

**Castration Protocol**

- Please do not feed your horse after midnight the night before surgery. Free choice water is fine.
- Please have an extra cotton lead rope (no chain) and towel available, as well as a clean stall.
- After surgery the horse should be confined for at least 8 hours. A small paddock turn out 8-24 hours post-op is advised. Starting the next day, please exercise (trot) your horse for 30 minutes/2 times a day to promote drainage for the next 7-10 days. Full turn out will help keep swelling down.
- Immediately after surgery expect a fast drip of blood from surgical site. After 45 minutes-1 hour this will become a slow drip. The color will change from a bright red to a clear, yellow tinged fluid and drainage will continue for 3-10 days.
- Please alert us if you notice any of the following: blood streaming from surgical site too fast to count drops, excessive swelling, a purulent discharge from surgical site and/or your horse stops eating or develops a temperature greater than 102.5 .
- The most common complication from a castration is swelling at the surgery site. Usually this can be remedied by exercise and cold hosing the outside of the scrotal sac. Please do not put the hose inside the incision. If swelling persists please call us to re-open the incision.

Castration is a routine surgical procedure that can be done in the field. Like any surgery, there are pre- and post-operative procedures that can ensure a smooth recovery.