



# Operation Gelding Aftercare Instructions

Palmetto  
Equine  
Awareness &  
Rescue  
League



*Horses lend us the wings we lack.*  
Author Unknown

**Surgery:** A scrotal approach was used to remove the testicles. The testicles were removed in a routine fashion.

**Aftercare:** Your horse may retain some stallion-like characteristics for up to two months. He can remain fertile for several weeks after the surgery.

1. **Medication:** No medication is necessary, but phenylbutazone (bute) may be helpful for swelling. For a 1,000 lb. horse, 1 tablet twice daily in feed should be adequate. Smaller horses need proportionally less (e.g., 500 lb. = ½ tablet). Phenylbutazone paste may also be used. Please confirm dosage with attending veterinarian.
2. **Exercise:** There is an open incision in the scrotum. The incision(s) will swell. Swelling will generally be the worst between the third and fifth day after surgery. Exercise is very important and the most beneficial means of controlling the swelling. Your horse should be forced to walk and trot a minimum of 15 minutes twice daily. More would be better. Paddock turnout in addition to the forced exercise is encouraged. Forced exercise should continue for two weeks.
3. Your horse may be slightly depressed and reluctant to move initially, but he should quickly work out of this. He should continue to eat normally. There should be no fever, and any swelling should not be more than can easily be contained by two hands. Immediately contact your regular veterinarian if fever greater than 101 degrees, poor appetite, excessive swelling, or protruding of any tissue from the surgery site occurs.
4. Normal work may resume in 10-14 days if he is healing well.
5. Normal diet may be continued once the horse is fully awake from the anesthesia.

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Attending Veterinarian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional instructions by attending veterinarian:

---



---



---



---



---