

REATA EQUINE VETERINARY GROUP LLC.

Information on Possible Castration Complications for Owners

Although castration is a common surgical procedure it is not without risk. It is usually performed in the field under general anesthesia with little back up resources available in the case of life threatening complications. The purpose of this information sheet is to inform the owner of the risks inherent in surgical castration.

Anesthetic Risk:

Each horse is given an intravenous dose of short acting general anesthetic. The patient lies down and is under general anesthesia for a short time (15-45 minutes). Possible complications include sensitivity to the anesthetic and/or injury to the patient during induction of anesthesia or recovery from anesthesia. These complications can result in permanent injury to the patient or death of the patient.

Surgical Risk:

Field castration is the removal of both testicles through a skin incision. The skin incision is left open after surgery is complete to allow for drainage. The complications that can occur during surgery or post surgically are:

- **Hemorrhage:** post surgical bleeding is usually mild but excessive bleeding can become life threatening if not corrected.
- **Infection:** post castration infection is not uncommon. Infections that are non responsive to antibiotics can result in the death of the patient.
- **Evisceration of Bowel:** Bowel can herniate through the open incision after castration. Although this outcome is rare it can be fatal for the patient.

Persistent Stallion-like Behavior:

- Continued stallion like behavior is a frequent complication of castration. Such geldings may display masculine behavior ranging from aggressive behavior to mounting and even copulation.
- The cause of continued stallion like behavior is unknown

Owners of stallions to be castrated have the option of referral to a surgical facility to have the procedure performed in a hospital setting, thus decreasing the risks associated with field castration.

I have read and understand the above information on the risks associated with field castration and accept the risks inherent in the procedure. I authorize Dr. _____ to perform a field castration on

(Horse's name)

Print Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____