

Dr Brianna Vandyke BVBio/BVSc (Hons)

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24/7 Emergency service

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Equine Castration Consent Form

Owner:	Horse:
Address:	Age:
	Colour:
	Breed:
	Brands: (NS) (OS)
Telephone:	Microchip:
Date of horse's last tetanus vaccination:	

I _____ (owner/agent) authorise Pepper Tree Farm Equine Clinic to administer a sedative and local anaesthetic or a general anaesthetic to the above named horse for the purpose of gelding the above named horse as deemed appropriated by the attending veterinary surgeon.

If an agent of the owner, I confirm that I have the express authority of the owner to authorise the above procedure. 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 anaesthetic risk including any complications that may develop as a result of this procedure. Some of the common problems associated with this procedure include:

- Post-surgical bleeding
- Post-surgical infection
- Anaesthetic injury or death
- Eventration/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 undertaken as deemed necessary by the attending veterinary surgeon. I confirm that I read and understood the castration aftercare document and agree to follow the guidelines.

I undertake to pay all costs associated with this procedure including those associated with livery. If there is no history of a tetanus vaccine been administered in the previous 6 months then I authorise this to be given at the time of castration at an additional cost.

Signed Owner/Agent: _____ **Date:** _____



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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 anaesthesia. 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 then 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 bleeding from the surgical site for up to 48 hours after surgery. You should always be able to “count the drips”. Any bleeding faster than this requires veterinary attention.
- **Infection/Swelling:** If the incision closes prematurely then infection can be sealed inside. If the scrotal area swells to more than 2 times its pre-surgical size or if your horse’s rectal temperature exceeds 38.5°C, infection should be suspected. The aftercare instructions outlined below should help prevent swelling and infection.
- **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.
- **Pregnancy:** A recently castrated gelding can still get a mare in foal for some after castration because of sperm remaining in the conducting system. Recently castrated geldings should be kept away from females for 30 days.

Aftercare

- Confine the horse to a small yard or stable for the first 24 hours. This should be in a clean, dry and non-dusty environment.
- The horse should be checked at least hourly for 8 hours after surgery, then at least twice daily for the next week.
- After the first 24 hours the horse should be exercised for 20 minutes twice daily for the next week. This can include fast walking in hand, trotting or lunging.
- After the first 24 hours the surgery site should be cold hosed for 20 minutes twice daily with a horizontal stream, never hosing up into the surgical site.

Please call immediately if:

- You have any questions concerning the castration and healing of the surgical site.
- Your horse acts depressed, is lame or won’t eat following the procedure. He should always maintain a good appetite and attitude.
- You observe excessive swelling of the scrotum or sheath (i.e. > 2 times pre-surgical size)
- Your horse’s temperature in the morning is >38.5°C
- You observe more than a slow drip of blood or abnormal drainage from the scrotal incision. Bleeding is usually only a potential complication in the first 24 hours after the procedure.
- You observe any pink or red material hanging from the surgical site.