THINGS TO DO:

Keep him very quiet in a stall or small paddock for the first 18-24 hours after surgery. A quiet environment greatly decreases the chances of excessive bleeding. After the first 24 hours he may go out in a clean paddock or pasture so he is free to move about and self exercise.

Observe for bleeding hourly for the first 6 hours after surgery. The incision is not sutured shut, so some bleeding after surgery is “normal”. (See Things to Watch For.)

The surgical site should be inspected at least once daily for 2 weeks for signs of excessive swelling and infection.

Starting the day after surgery, exercise your horse twice a day. You may need to force him to exercise at a trot or cantor for about 20 minutes. Simply walking around in a stall or paddock is not sufficient. This exercise promotes drainage for the surgical site, which reduces the incidence of swelling and infection.

During the spring and summer a fly repellent may be necessary to keep flies away from the wound. Consult with your veterinarian about the most appropriate choice.

Keep away from mares for at least 6 weeks following the surgery.

THINGS TO WATCH FOR:

BLEEDING:

Bleeding faster than a steady drip (one drop per 2 seconds) for longer than 3 hours is a cause for concern, contact the Clinic immediately.

MATERIAL HANGING FROM THE INCISION SITE:

Small tissue tags can normally be present and protrude from the incision. Any tissue that resembles intestine is a medical emergency, contact the Clinic immediately.

EXCESSIVE SWELLING:

Post-castration swelling of the scrotal area or sheath is a fairly common occurrence. It may be decreased by exercise, anti-inflammatory medications (such as Bute), or hydrotherapy. This swelling should resolve within 1 to 2 weeks. If swelling or drainage persists for 3 weeks or longer, contact the Clinic.

LETHARGY/DEPRESSION:

Understandably, the colt will likely have a decreased activity level for a few days after the surgery. However if this persists contact the Clinic.

HE SHOULD NOT:

Be stiff or extremely reluctant to move.

Have a rectal temperature greater then 102 degrees.

Have a decreased appetite or decreased thirst.