

Buckingham Equine Vets

Castration: Your questions answered. Our terms and conditions

Thank you for choosing to use Buckingham Equine Vets for the castration (removal of testicles) of your colt or stallion. Please be aware of the following commonly asked questions, advice, terms and conditions in performing the surgical procedure.

When is the best time of year to perform a castration?

The best time of year to perform a castration is the Spring and Autumn. This is a time when the fields are at their least muddy (not winter), but without the increased number of flies likely to cause surgical wound infections (not summer). Castrations can be performed in the winter and summer but the owner should be aware of the increased risks of the procedure. For further clarification, please discuss them with one of our veterinary surgeons prior to the procedure being performed.

What is the best age of a colt to undergo a castration?

Standing castrations should be performed on colts between **1 year and 3 years of age**. Before 1 year of age the testicles are likely too small to be located. After 3 years of age the large size of the testicles, blood vessels, and internal body structures, significantly increase the risks of the surgery. It is advised that horses greater than 3 years of age undergo the castration procedure under general anaesthetic at a referral centre. Should this not be a suitable option for you then please call our clinic so your request can be discussed with a vet.

Are there risks involved in the castration procedure?

The owner/carer should be aware of the relatively high risks involved in performing a castration procedure, despite our best efforts in reducing their occurrence. These include commonly post-surgical bleeding and infection of the surgical site; and rarely evisceration (expulsion) of the abdominal contents (including intestines) through the surgical wound. If you have any concerns relating to these risks/complications, please discuss them with one of our veterinary surgeons prior to the procedure being performed. *Please note: should a complication arise then any additional consultation, drug, or visit costs will need to be charged in addition of the cost of the surgical procedure.*

What does an owner need to provide for the castration at their yard?

To aid the surgical process please provide:

1. A stable for the castration to be performed in. This should be bedded with **straw**. Shavings are not advised as they are more likely to stick to the castration wounds post-surgery and increase the risk of wound infection.
2. Clean water in a clean bucket.
3. A dry turnout area.

Is it possible for the castration to be postponed at the last minute?

It has been shown that the risks of post-surgical wound contamination and infection are greater when horses are turnout out in 'bad' weather (e.g. rain and wind) in the 24-48 hours after the surgery. Since there is a need to have horses moving around immediately after surgery to help the castration wounds drain, we may advise postponing the surgical procedure in the interest of the horse's welfare. We apologise if this causes inconvenience to you.

What are the costs involved in performing a castration?

The costs involved include a visit charge, surgical procedure charge, and costs of drugs (antibiotics, pain relief, and tetanus protection) used. Please note the procedure does not fall under our *Free Visit* or *Reduced Visit* schemes. For more details of costs, or to request a quote for the procedure on your horse, please call our reception via telephone.

What happens if the vet is unable to perform the castration on the day?

It is not uncommon for the procedure to be needed to be delayed. The testicles may not be correctly located in the scrotum, or the horse's temperament may not allow the procedure to be safely performed. In this situation it will likely be advised that the castration is delayed, or alternative arrangements are made for the operation. *Please note that should this happen, the visit charge, a consultation fee, cost of drugs used (e.g. sedation), cost of drugs opened but not used, will need to be charged.*

If you have any further questions about the castration procedure, please call our clinic (01908 560789),



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