

**Range Animal Hospital****E6116 US Highway 2  
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# Equine Cryptorchid Castration

- A common condition in the colt.
- For medical reasons, all cryptorchid colts should be castrated; both the descended and retained testicles **MUST** be removed.
  - Cryptorchidism is an inherited disease.
  - Retained testicles are very prone to becoming cancerous as the horse ages.
  - While the retained testicles do not produce sperm, they do produce testosterone and these colts retain their stud like characteristics & behaviors if left in place.
  - The descended testicle is fertile and can father more cryptorchid colts.
- The Range Animal Hospital takes equine surgery seriously with the availability of a specially equipped large animal operating room. We have a hydraulic operating table and gas anesthesia for our equine patients. Additionally, multi-parameter monitoring equipment is available for our large animal patients.
- Prior to surgery we will attempt to identify the exact location of the retained testicle:
  - “High Flank” testicles can usually be felt high in the groin, and generally can be removed with a normal, or slightly modified, castration.
  - Testicles in the inguinal canal can usually be identified with ultrasound and can be removed from an incision in the groin, dilating the inguinal ring and canal to approach and remove the testicle. This procedure is somewhat more extensive than a routine castration.
  - Intra-abdominally retained testicles are removed through an abdominal incision just in front of the penis. This is abdominal surgery and must be approached with that level of care.
- In the case of an intra-abdominal testicle, if possible, we will close the incision with internal, absorbable sutures, thereby precluding the need for suture removal.
- We prefer to do these procedures on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings, with the horse returning home the same day, generally between 3:00 and 5:00 PM, or the next day. This is dependant on the anesthetic recovery and extent of the surgery.
- Cost is approximately \$350 to \$1200. [January 2011]. This includes anesthesia, surgery and postoperative care, but not any needed pre-op blood work. Feel free to send the clients with appropriate lab work.