Indications:

This approach is used for local anesthesia of the limb at the region distal to the tourniquet. It is used for such minor surgical procedures as amputation of digits, drainage of large abscesses or reduction of open wounds. The local anesthetic effect achieved using intravenous Lidocaine lasts for as long as the tourniquet is in place; it may be safely held at a given site for up to 90 minutes.

Precautions:

* Always double-check the calculated dose of Lidocaine to be administered as overdoses may be fatal, causing such toxic effects as severe bradycardia leading to a sudden drop in blood pressure and a loss of consciousness.
* Lidocaine HCl is indicated for safe use with a tourniquet though Lidocaine-Epinephrine solutions are not. This is due to the increased risk of perivascular sloughing. Further, the tourniquet accomplishes the desired effect of maintaining a therapeutic concentration of Lidocaine at the injection region, thus the vasoconstriction caused by Epinephrine is not required.
* The personnel attempting this procedure must be mindful of their safety, that of the animal and that of the environment at all times. As such, caution is advised when handling hypodermic needles, restraining the animals, applying the tourniquet and injecting Lidocaine to avoid unnecessary injury to all parties involved.