**Low dose epidural anaesthesia**

Low dose epidural anaesthesia aims to desensitize the last three pairs of sacral nerves within the spinal canal without impairment of motor function to the pelvic limbs. This procedure anesthetizes the tail and caudal reproductive tract (anus, vulva, perineum, relaxation of the anal sphincter) and can be used in surgery of the vagina, vulva, anus, rectum, caudal prepuce, scrotum and to perform urethrostomies, castrations, fetotomies and cesarean sections. It can also be useful to control tenesmus and uterine contractions during repair of a prolapsed rectum or vulva, repositioning of a prolapsed uterus or dystocia.

**High dose epidural anaesthesia**

High dose epidural anaesthesia desensitize nerves further cranially and can lead to anaesthesia as far cranial as the diaphragm, depending on the amount of local anaesthetic used. Recumbency will occur and it can, be used for surgery of the hind legs. It has also been used for umbilical surgery in calves. The technique and injection site are the same as for the low dose epidural, but the volumes are higher than with the low dose. With most local anaesthetic solutions, when the animal is positioned in lateral recumbency the anaesthetic will distribute better to the side the animal is positioned on (the lower side), whereas dorsal recumbency will lead to bilateral distribution of the anaesthetic solution.