**Pre surgical preparation of patient**

**Hair Removal** - Done at induction, before the animal is moved to a surgery table. Using a No. 40 clipper blade, the hair is first clipped along the same direction of hair growth, then again against the direction of hair growth. Clippers should be used gently, parallel to the skin. Hair is clipped in an area extending at least 10 cm in all directions from the planned incision. Loose hair is thoroughly removed with a vacuum before transferring the patient from the induction area to a surgery table.

**Positioning Before beginning the skin preparation be sure**: The patient is stable in dorsal recumbency with the head toward the anesthetic machine and the head is resting comfortably on the table. Anesthetic tubing is properly connected and secure. Patient is at an optimal position for lighting and instrument access. Warming disks are placed if the animal is small or very young. Warming devices should be placed under a towel or other covering and should NEVER be placed in direct contact with the patient as serious burns can result. Limbs are tied to help stabilize the patient. In large, deep-chested dogs, it may help to cross the forelimbs, securing each tie-down to the opposite side of the table. Be careful not to over-tighten ties as nerve damage or other complications can result

**Skin Preparation** - As soon as the patient is positioned on the table, a thorough skin prep is completed: Scrub skin with chlorhexidine scrub from the prep tray. Rinse with water containing dilute chlorhexidine solution (pale blue solution). Repeat both steps a total of 3 times after all gross debris has been removed. Begin each scrub in the center of the scrubbed area, over the planned incision site, and scrub in a ‘bulls eye’ pattern toward the periphery, never going back to the center with the same gauze sponge. The skin preparation should be thorough but gentle to avoid unnecessary skin trauma. The final application of chlorhexidine solution is allowed to remain on the skin. It is important that the skin preparation is started as soon as the animal is on the surgery table to allow for maximum scrub and contact time between antimicrobials and the skin. After skin prep is complete, finish securing legs and make final adjustments in lighting. Open pack and place blade and suture on sterile field after the patient is positioned and scrubbed.

**Draping** - With the animal positioned and the skin prepared, the animal is ready to be draped: Drapes are in the surgery packs and are not fenestrated The drape is fenestrated after it is placed on the patient. There should be a continuous sterile field from the cranial end of the drape to the instrument tray (which is placed behind the patient). On large dogs a second drape may be required to cover chest or feet Drapes are placed in one motion and then either used, removed or more drapes added to achieve the desired effect. Once the drape is placed, it should not be repositioned toward the surgical site as this will carry contaminants onto the prepared skin.