**Anaesthesia Protocols**

**Pre-Operative**

* The animal should be physically examined before any anaesthetic agent is given. Normal TPR values should be assessed to reduce the risk of complications. The animal should not be anaesthetized if they have any respiratory or circulatory problems
* The weight of the animal should be taken in order to accurately calculate the dosages of the drugs that will be used for anaesthesia.
* The injection sites should be shaved for easier visualization.
* All drugs and counteractive drugs should be prepared at the proper dosages and kept close by with keen attention placed on concentrations and routes of delivery.
* The animal should be fasted, especially ruminants as they may get bloat due to the action of digestive system being slowed down by the anaesthetic drugs which causes a build up of gas (keep gastric tube nearby). Fasting also reduces the risk of aspiration pneumonia.
* IV cathaters should be placed so that they provide easy access for the delivery of drugs.
* The animal should be properly restrained
* The drugs should be given in a pre-planned order so that nothing is missed

**Intra-Operative**

* Monitoring the TPR and responses of the animal is of paramount importance. It allows you to decide if the drugs should be topped up, the CRI should be slowed down or sped up or if it is an emergency situation and the animal needs to have emergency drugs administered. The aimal should be monitored constantly.
* When giving the epidural, ensure the needle does not enter space with cerebro-spinal fluid as it can cause the drugs to diffuse and block other parts of the body.
* Rumen contractions should be checked to ensure the animal is not bloating

**Post-Operative**

* After administering reversal drugs, note that the animal may wake up rapidly so keep them restrained
* The animal should not be fed for the next four hours to allow proper gut movement to restart
* The animal should be given pain killers at the correct dose for a few days in order to keep them as comfortable as possible
* The animal should be monitored over th next few days for eating habits and pain to see if they are recovering well from the surgery