RESTRAINT:

The mare should be suitably restrained ideally in a set of stocks, her tail bandaged and her vulva thoroughly cleaned and dried.

LOCAL ANAESTHESIA:

With a gloved hand, the level of the floor of the pelvis is determined. This allows you to ascertain the level to which the dorsal commissure of the vulva must be sutured. Beginning at this level, the mucocutaneous junction of the vulva is infiltrated with local anaesthetic through a 21-gauge one-inch needle.

It is important to use plenty of local anaesthetic and in many cases at least 25 ml will be needed. The local anaesthetic helps to evert the mucocutaneous junction. Both sides of the vulva are infiltrated in a stepwise fashion proceeding dorsally up to the dorsal commissure being sure that enough local is put right at the dorsal extent of the vulva. For mares operated on previously it is important to infiltrate deeply. This can be difficult due to the considerable amount of scar tissue often present in mares which have had repeated Caslick operations.

MATERIALS:

* Pair of fine tissue forceps
* Sharp curved or straight tissue scissors
* 2/0 synthetic non-absorbable suture eg. Nylon
* 21-23G needle