**Anaesthesia & Surgical Preparation**

1. The animal is usually placed in lateral recumbency by means of rope & chemical restraint, or is secure on surgical table, with the affected claw uppermost. The procedure may be performed with the animal standing but is not recommended.
2. The limb is clipped from the metacarpal region or midmetatarsal region distal, and the area is prepared surgically prior to administering local anaesthesia.
3. The claw & interdigital space are cleared of all faecal matter and debris; a scrub brush and a hoof knife are useful for this initial preparation.
4. Intravenous local analgesia (using lidocaine) is the preferred method of local desensitization, but regional blocks or a ring block may also be used.
5. Following administration of local anaesthetic, the surgical site is given a final surgical scrub.
6. If the intravenous analgesic is not used, a tourniquet (rubber tubing) is applied at this stage.
7. The limb is draped so the foot is exposed, and a sterile glove may be applied over the claw, so it can be handled by the surgeon during surgery.