**INTRAOPERATIVE PROCEDURE OF DIGIT AMPUTATION**

After the animal is sedated and a local block is performed, the animal is casted into lateral recumbency and the affected limb is isolated and restrained (can be done making a bowline knot on one end of a long piece of rope, and the knot is slipped under the dewclaw and the limb is held up). Any hair around the area of the digit is then removed using the clippers. The hoof is then washed with warm, soapy water to remove any dirt or debris. The area of the digit is then cleaned with an antiseptic solution. After these steps are completed, the intra-operative procedure then begins.

1. The limb is isolated, and the tourniquet is applied to the metatarsus.
2. An incision is then made above the coronary band, beginning in the inter-digital space and ending in the middle of the phalanx (P2), using a scalpel blade. The incision is kept as distally as possible (making sure all inflamed tissue will be removed). The loose skin can be held back or out of the way using the haemostats.
3. The gigli wire in then inserted into the inter-digital space following the incision line.
4. The handles of the gigli wire are then held and used to saw through the bone.
5. Any small fragments of bone that may be remaining are then removed.
6. An 18G needle is then inserted through a section of the skin above the coronary band and a section of skin below the digit, nylon suture is then placed through the tip of the needle and exited at the hub of the needle. The needle is then removed and a surgeon’s knot is done to adhere the two sections of skin together.
7. Antibiotic powder is then applied to the wound, and the area is then bandaged.

* **It is important that the bandage is applied properly so it does not touch the ground when the animal is walking/ or that the animal is not walking on the bandage.**
* **The gigli wire must be passed underneath the dewclaw.**