**SPLINT BONE REMOVAL INTRA OPERATIVE PROCEDURE**

1. Following incision, the distal aspect of the splint bone (the button) is identified. The button is grasped with forceps, which are used to apply upward traction on the distal bone fragment. This exposes the interosseous ligament, which resides between the fracture fragment and underlying cannon bone.
2. An osteotome and mallet are used to transect the interosseous ligament, thereby freeing the distal bone fragment from its attachment to the underlying cannon bone. Once the distal fragment is removed, any middle fragments are identified and resected in similar fashion.
3. After all middle and distal bone fragments have been removed, the scalpel and osteotome are used to expose the lower (bottom) end of the proximal (intact) bone fragment. The majority of this fragment will remain with the horse following surgery.
4. Once adequately exposed, the lower end of the proximal fragment is resected at an angle (i.e. tapered) to eliminate future interference of sharp bone edges with adjacent soft tissues.
5. Once freed, the lower end of the proximal (intact) fragment is removed.
6. The incision is inspected and cleansed of persistent haemorrhage, abnormal (infected) soft tissues and any residual debris prior to closure.
7. Closure is performed in two layers; Subcutaneous tissue and skin are opposed separately. The incision is covered with a sterile wrap and a heavy, well-padded distal limb bandage is carefully applied prior to the horse's recovery.