Caslick’s Procedure

Anesthesia and Surgical Preparation

Caslick’s operation is performed with the animal under local anesthesia by direct infiltration of the vulvar labial margin. The surgery is best performed in a set of stocks, where dangers to the mare and operator are minimal; some mares require a twitch and, occasionally, tranquilization. Prior to the surgery, the feces should be manually removed from the rectum, and the tail should be bandaged and secured out of the surgical field. A thorough cleansing of the perineal region should be performed using a mild disinfectant solution, and all traces of the disinfectant solution should be removed by rinsing with water. Cotton or paper towels are recommended, rather than a scrub brush. Approximately 5 ml of local anesthetic are used for local infiltration into each side. Following desensitization of the required length of the mucocutaneous junction of the vulva and labia, a final preparation of the surgical site is performed using a suitable, nonirritating antiseptic applied with cotton or gauze sponges.