**Surgical Preparation for Digit Amputation**

1. The animal is usually placed in lateral recumbency by means of ropes and chemical restraint, or it is secured to a surgical table, with the affected claw uppermost. The procedure may be performed with the animal standing,but this is not generally recommended.
2. The limb is clipped from the midmetacarpal region or midmetatarsal region distad, and the area is prepared surgically prior to administering local anesthesia.
3. The claw and interdigital space are cleared of all fecal material and debris; a scrub brush and hoof knife are useful for this initial preparation.
4. Intravenous local analgesia is the preferred method of local desensitization, but regional nerve blocks or a ring block may also be used.
5. Following administration of the local anesthetic, the surgical site is given a final surgical scrub.
6. If the intravenous analgesic technique 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.