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| Right flank exploratory: |
| #Layers include:  Skin  ↓  Subcutaneous fat  ↓  External abdominal oblique  ↓  Internal abdominal oblique  ↓  Trans-versus  ↓  Peritoneum  # Best access to most structures from the **right para-lumbar fossa** [Any age ruminant].  #Best access to most of abomasum from **right para-median approach** |

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| Left flank exploratory: |
| Skin incision in the left paralumbar fossa:  -20-25cm dorso-ventral skin incision  -8cm caudal and parallel to last rib  -8cm ventral to the transverse processes of the lumbar vertebrae  -Appendicularly limited (Short armed people) require incision to be as cranial enough to be able to do full reticular exploratory  Left flank exploratory prior to rumenotomy:  -Dorso-ventral rumen sacs  -Palpate reticulum for adhesions or abscesses \*Cranial abdominal adhesions usually indicative of hardware disease  \*Ventral abdominal adhesions usually indicative of perforating abomasal ulcers. |

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| Laparotomy Closure: |
| \*2 layer muscle closure using #3 chromic gut  - Perineum and transverse abdominus  - Internal and external abdominal oblique muscles  \*Skin routinely closed with Ford Interlocking pattern with #3 Braunamid  - Interrupted suture placed at the bottom of the incision to allow ventral drainage if needed. |