**Complications**

As with most procedures in food producing animals, in the post-operative period, there is some decrease in productivity due to several factors such as stress and pain. With digit amputation, the patient animal is expected to undergo certain significant drawbacks that can affect both the cattle’s health and economic profit of the farm.

Slow wound healing – If there is sub-par post-operative management of the patient’s surroundings, provision of good quality forage, concentrate and water or management of the surgical wound, there may be a decrease in the rate of healing since these factors, among others, have the potential to diminish the patient’s physiologic processes and/or the resources (vitamins and minerals) enabling it to properly healing the wound.

Infection of the surgical site – Microbial infection due to contamination of the surgical site (usually by faecal matter and soil) is likely to occur if post-operative management and monitoring is not optimal.

Development of disease in the remaining digit – Localized disease and dysfunction resulting from the additional strain placed on the single digit predisposes it to severe pathology like laminitis, solar ulcers and

Persistently poor gait – Due to the loss of the digit, cattle will have a noticeably abnormal gait. This can result in mobility difficulties for the patient such as a longer time to be herded into parts of the farm (e.g. stanchions, pastures) and other issues such as reduced feed intake.

Decreased milk yield – Due to the increased stress of the patient’s pain post-op, need for gradual adjustment to the loss of one of its digits and also the physiological demands that come to effect during the healing process, the cattle’s ability to reduce is may be considerably reduced. The physiological needs and resources available to the patient being shunted away from milk production to an extent and channelled more into growth and repair.

Ascending tendonitis – Often associated with conditions of the hoof such as subsolar abscesses, solar ulcers and digital sepsis and negatively affecting the deep digital flexor tendon or extensor tendons of the distal limb, these may originate from either the infection not being completely resolved in the digital amputation or post-op infection of the surgical wound.