

Advantages of digit amputation in cattle

1. It is a rapid and relatively inexpensive procedure.
2. All the infected tissues are resected, and cattle usually return to their previous level of production.
3. Salvage procedure to get animal to point of calving and/or slaughter (helps farmer to still get some income from animal).
4. Low amputation- provides more digital stability because the interdigital cruciate ligament is preserved.
5. High amputation- wound is further away from the ground hence less chance for infection.

Disadvantages of digit amputation in cattle

1. Painful procedure.
2. The expected production life is reduced especially in heavy animals, cattle weighing more than 680 kg (contraindicated).
3. Possible tendonitis.
4. The cosmetic result is poor.
5. Continued drop in milk production up to a month post-procedure (stress).
6. Low amputation has a greater chance of infection as it is closer to the ground.
7. Possible development of diseases in the remainder of claw.